Sir Edward W. Watkin.

576

PENNANT, Thomas

A tour in Wales Vol. 2.

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THE JOURNEY
TO
SNOWDON.

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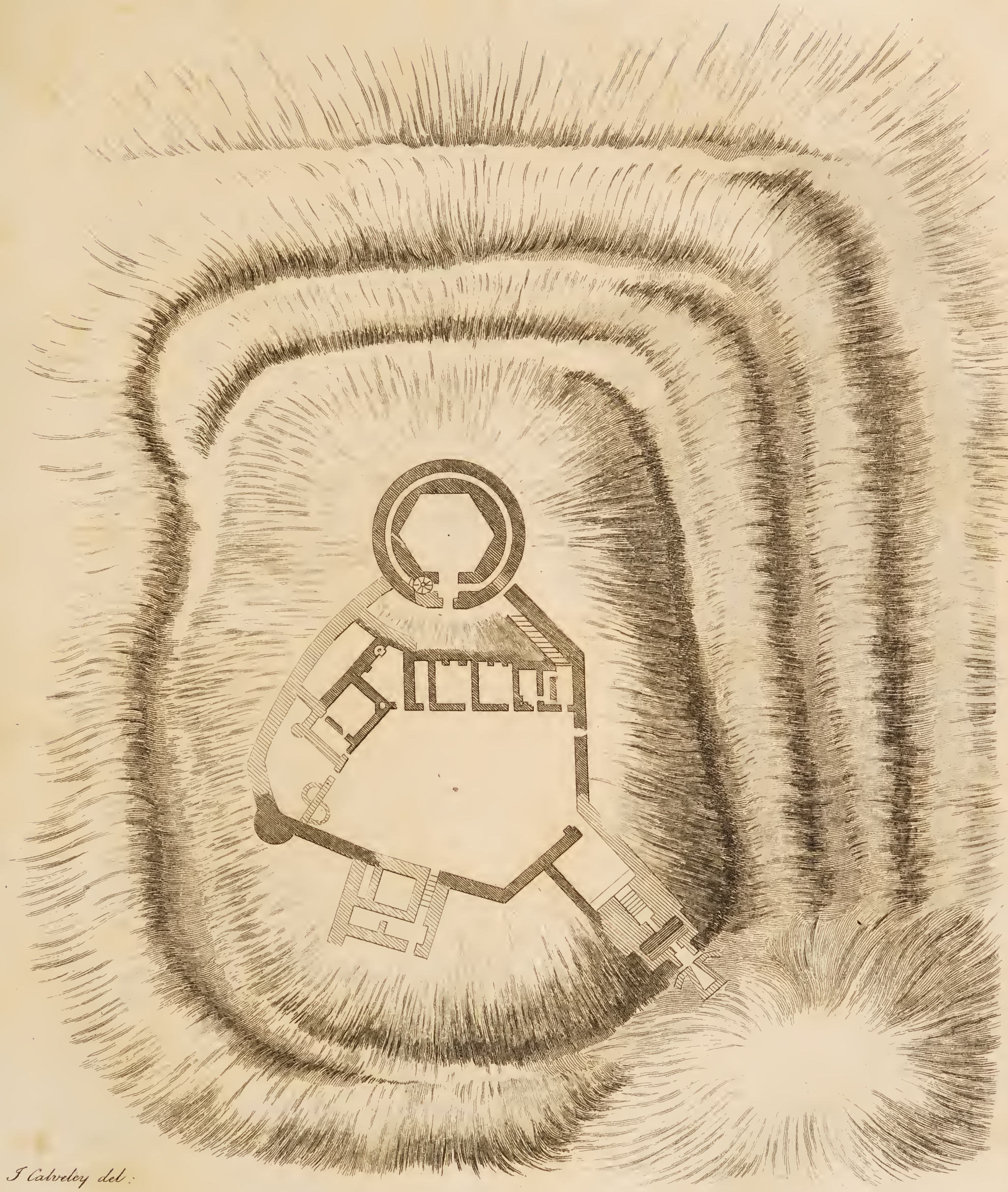

I Calveley del.

PLAN OF HAWARDEN CASTLE.

Directions to the Book-Binder,

AND

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† This Plate being wrongly numbered, reference muſt be made to the number of the page.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS Journey is the continuation of my Tour in WALES. Another part will appear with all convenient ſpeed, and comprehend the remainder of *Caernarvonſhire*, the Iſle of *Angleſea*, the county of *Montgomery*, and conclude with ſome account of SHREWSBURY, the antient ſeat of the *Britiſh* Princes; which will complete the ſecond volume, and probably all that I ſhall ſay of our Principality; for indolence, the forerunner of age, begins to check every new attempt.

THIS book contains a journey from my own houſe to the ſummit of *Snowdon*, and takes in almoſt the whole of our *Alpine* tract.

As far as the Title announces, it is complete. A more general Title-Page will be given with the ſecond part, and the journey continued regularly from p. 183.

I THANK

ADVERTISEMENT.

I THANK my friends for variety of information, and muſt preſent my particular acknowlegements to Sir JOHN SEBRIGHT, Baronet, for his liberal communication of ſeveral of the late Mr. EDWARD LLWYD's Manuſcripts, which have flung great light on ſeveral parts of our hiſtory. I have added an Appendix of the errors or omiſſions of my former volume: as they are freely acknowleged, let them be candidly received.

THOMAS PENNANT.

DOWNING,
MARCH 1, 1781.

IN this, the ſequel of my former tour, I directed my courſe weſtward from *Downing*, paſſed by *Whiteford*, our pariſh-church, and aſcended the hill of *Garreg*, or the *Rock*, a high and moſt conſpicuous part of the country. The *Romans* took advantage of it, and placed on its ſummit a *Pharos*, to conduct the navigators to and from *Deva*, along the difficult channel of the *Seteia Portus*. The building is ſtill remaining. I hope my friends will not deem me an antiquarian *Quixote*, and imagine me miſtaking, in this my ſecond ſally, a building, hitherto ſuppoſed to have been a wind-mill, for a *Roman* light-houſe. It is tolerably entire; its form is circular; the height conſiderable; the inner diameter twelve feet and a half; the thickneſs of the walls four feet four inches. The doors, or entrances, are oppoſite to each other: over each is a ſquare funnel, like a chimney, which opens on the outſide, about half way up the building. On each ſide is

A PHAROS.

a window. About four feet from the ground are three circular holes, lined with mortar, as is frequent in *Roman* buildings; and penetrate the whole wall, for purpoſes now unknown.

WITHINSIDE are the veſtiges of a ſtair-caſe, which led to the floors, of which there appear to have been two. Along ſuch part of the upper, which was conſpicuous from the channel, are eight ſmall ſquare openings, caſed with free-ſtone (the reſt of the building being of rude lime-ſtone, bedded in hard mortar) and each of theſe were ſeparated by wooden pannels, placed in deep grooves, the laſt ſtill in a perfect ſtate. In each of theſe partitions were placed the lights, which the *Romans* thought neceſſary to keep diſtinct, or to prevent from running into one, leſt they ſhould be miſtaken by ſeamen for a ſtar. *Periculum in corrivatione ignium, ne ſidus exiſtimetur* *.

To the building is very evidently a broad and raiſed road, pointing from the eaſt; and near its upper end are the marks of a trench, which ſurrounded and gave protection to this uſeful edifice. Deſcend, and near the foot of the hill leave on the left *Maen Achwynfan*, the croſs deſcribed in my former tour. *Glol*, an incloſed mountain a little farther on, has among the buſhes various circular foundations of ſtone unmortared building. About

NEWMARKET. a mile from hence, viſit the ſmall town of *Newmarket*, almoſt the entire creation of its then owner, *John Wynne*, eſq; of *Gop*, who died in the preſent century. The antient name of the pariſh is *Trelawnyd*, for which I can find no ſatisfactory reaſon. In the churchyard is a handſome old croſs. Here is fixed one of the charity-ſchools, founded and opened in 1726, by doctor *Daniel Williams*, a diſſenting miniſter, with an endowment of eight pounds a year; a charity which he extended to every county in *North Wales*, diſtinguiſhing that at *Wrexham*, the place of his birth, by an annual

* *Plinii Hiſt. Nat.* lib. xxxvi. c. 12.

ſalary

ſalary of fifteen pounds. He alſo eſtabliſhed a fund, I believe, to each, from which the children are apprenticed, at five pounds apiece.

FROM the town I aſcended the hill, called *Copa'r'leni*, on whoſe ſummit is a moſt enormous carnedd, or tumulus, formed of lime-ſtones. It was probably the ſite of a *ſpecula*, or exploratory tower, and memorial of ſome chieftain. If *Roman*, perhaps *Paulinus* gave name to it, *Cop-Paulini*. There is great uncertainty in theſe derivations: I may poſſibly as well abide by my former etymology of *Cop yr Goleuni*, or the Mount of Lights; for it might have been a place of ſignals by fire of the approach of an enemy by ſea *, or a *ſtation* of the *holy fires*, the *Coel Ceithie* of the *Druids*, ſimilar to the *Karn Gollewa*, the carn of lights, and *Karn Leſkyz*, or carn of burnings, of the *Corniſh*, ſuppoſed by the learned BORLASE † to have been uſed for ſimilar purpoſes. The tract from hence to *Caerwys* was certainly a field of battle: no place in *North Wales* exhibits an equal quantity of *tumuli*; but all ſepulchral, as is proved by the urns diſcovered in them: they are of a far inferior ſize to the firſt, and covered with turf. It will not be too hazardous a conjecture to ſuppoſe, that in this place was the ſlaughter of the *Ordovices* by *Agricola*, when our gallant nation was nearly extirpated. Part of the brow of the hill is called *Bryn y Saethiau*, or *the Hill of Arrows*, from being the ſtation of the archers in the engagement. COP.

RETURN along the ridge of the hill, marked its whole length with verdant tumuli, the tombs of ancient heroes. See beneath

* *Tour in Wales*, i. 413.

† *Antiq. Cornwall*, 131.

GWAEN-YSKOR. me the little church of *Gwaen-yſkor*, remarkable for its ancient regiſter.

LLANASA. DESCEND to the church and village of *Llanaſa*, the former dedicated to *St. Aſaph*, whoſe feſtival is kept on the firſt of *May*. *Laurence Child*, Biſhop of *St. Aſaph*, in 1385, procured the impropriation of this church to ſupply his cathedral with lights*, and repair the ruins occaſioned by the wars. In my approach from theſe high lands towards the ſhore, obſerve the ruins of a ſmall chapel at the little hamlet of *Gweſpyr*, near *Trelacre*, one of the ſeats of Sir *Pyers Moſtyn*, Baronet, a branch of the houſe of *Moſtyn*. His adjacent quarry is noted for the excellence of the free-ſtone; and his vaſt and profitable warren beneath, noted for the delicacy of the rabbets, by reaſon of their feeding on the maritime plants.

GRONANT. PASS over *Gronant-Moor*. There is a tradition, that its extent was ſo great, that the people on this ſide could hold converſation over the channel with thoſe of *Cheſhire*. This may be exaggerated; but from authentic records, it appears, that this flat was formerly very extenſive, and that it had been reduced to its preſent ſcanty limits by the fury of the ſea, which ſtill poſſeſſes its antient place. Previous to that cataſtrophe, it was poſſeſſed by the ſee of *St. Aſaph*, by virtue of a grant made by *Edward the Black Prince*, ſon of *Edward* III. to *Llewelyn ap Madoc*, elected Biſhop of *St. Aſaph* in 1357. The inundation happened before the reign of *Henry* V. Previous to that time, the Biſhop paid annually into the exchequer at *Cheſter*, as an acknowlegement, the ſum of twenty marks: but *Henry* V. in 1414, and *Henry* VI. in 1445 and 1451, in conſideration of the misfortune, releaſed

* *Willis's St. Aſaph*, 56, *App. No.* xxi.

the

the ſee from that rent *. If this record did not remain an inconteſtable proof of the ravages of the ocean on this part of the country, there exiſt other natural ones, that would have given reaſonable grounds for ſuſpicion. The *Hyle ſands*, which run for twelve or fourteen miles parallel to the narrow hundred of *Wiral*, in *Cheſhire*, and divided from *Wales* by a narrow channel, were once, in all probability, part of the firm land of *England*. A few miles to the weſt of *Gronant-Moor*, under the pariſh of *Abergeleu*, in *Denbighſhire*, are to be ſeen at low water, very remote from the ſhore, bedded in the ſand, immenſe numbers of oak-trees, a foreſt before this event. Laſtly, in the church-yard wall of *Abergelli* is a dateleſs epitaph, in *Welſh*, ſignifying the perſon who was interred there lived three miles to the north of that ſpot, a tract now entirely poſſeſſed by the ſea.

On approaching *Preſtatyn*, about two miles from *Trelacre*, the flat becomes extremely fertile in corn, eſpecially wheat, which is of diſtinguiſhed excellence; and continues equally noted through all the flat tract, as far as *Ruddlan*, where it is interrupted for a ſpace by the marſh, and is again continued along the coaſt far beyond *Abergeleu*. A little below *Preſtatyn*-mill, in a meadow, is the ſite of its Caſtle: nothing more than an elevated ſpace, with foundations conſiſting of ſtone and mortar, and a foſs at ſome diſtance from it, now remain. This little fortreſs was probably built by the *Welſh*, but wreſted from them by the *Engliſh*, who were poſſeſſed of it in 1167, the only time I find any mention of it, when it was deſtroyed by *Owen Gwynedd*, *Cadwalader* his brother,

PRESTATYN-CASTLE.

* *Willis's St. Aſaph*, 65. *App. No.* xxxi. xxxii.

and

and *Rees* Prince of *South Wales*; and all *Tegengle* reduced to the power of its lawful ſovereign.

THE hamlet and village of *Preſtatyn* lie in the pariſh of *Meliden*. This place was granted by *Richard* I. to *Robert Banaſter*, who enjoyed it for three years and a half, and built the town; which was deſtroyed by *Owen Gwynedd*. *Robert de Crevecœur*, in the ſeventh year of *Edward* I. laid claim to it in right of his anceſtor, *Banaſter*. An inquiſition was made, before a jury of twenty-four men *: their determination was in favor of *Robert*; ſince I find, by another record, that he died poſſeſſed of lands in *Maelwr Saeſneg* and *Preſtatyn*, which he held by the ſervice of one knight's fee.

THE road from hence to *Diſerth* is extremely pleaſant, at the foot of high hills, rich in lead ore, with a fine and fertile flat to the right. The white rock makes a conſpicuous figure on the left, and its ſides appeared deeply trenched by the miners in ſearch of ore. Near this place is the beginning of the vale of *Clwyd*, and the termination of the range of mountains, which bound it on the eaſt.

DISERTH CHURCH.

At a ſmall diſtance from hence lies the church of *Diſerth*, in a picturеſque and romantic bottom, beneath ſome rude rocks: the church overſhaded with great yews, and the ſingular figure of ſome of the tombs, form a moſt ſtriking appearance. A water-fall in the deep and rounded hollow of a rock, finely darkened with ivy, once gave additional beauty to this ſpot; but of late the diverting of the waters to a mill, has robbed the place of this elegant variation. The ſtream, which is little inferior to that of *Holywell*, flows principally from a ſingle well, called *Fynnon Aſa*,

* *Sebright's MSS.*

or

or *St. Aſaph's Well*, in a dingle in the pariſh of *Cwm*, about a mile diſtant. The fountain is incloſed with ſtone, in a polygonal form, and had formerly its votaries, like that of St. *Winefrede*.

ABOVE *Diſerth* church, on a high rock, ſtand the remains of its Caſtle. We cannot trace the foundation of this fortreſs, which went by the names of *Din-colyn*, *Caſtell y Ffailon*, and *Caſtell Gerri* *. It probably was *Welſh*, and the laſt of the chain of *Britiſh* poſts on the *Clwydian* hills. *Henry* III. in 1241, fortified it †; but its date was but ſhort, for in 1261 *Llewelyn ap Gryffydd* raſed both this caſtle, and that of *Diganwy* ‡. It was at a ſiege of this place that *Eineon*, the ſon of *Ririd Vlaidd*, was ſlain §. A croſs was erected on the ſpot, called *Croes Eineon*, the ſhaft of which, ornamented with ſtrange ſculpture, now is ſuppoſed to form the ſtile into the church-yard of *Diſerth*; in which is another croſs, of very curious work-manſhip. CASTLE.

THE caſtle occupied the ſummit of the rock, whoſe ſides are *eſcarpée*, or cut ſteep, to render the acceſs more difficult. On one part, beneath the top, is a ſquare out-work, with foſſes cut in part through the ſolid lime-ſtone. The fragments of the caſtle ſhew, that its ruin was not effected by time: they lie in vaſt maſſes, overthrown by mining, which was a common method of beſieging, very long before the uſe of powder.

IN a field a little to the ſouth of the caſtle, is a ruinous build-ing, called *Siamber Wen*. This is ſaid to have been the ſeat of a Sir *Robert Pounderling* ‖, once conſtable of the adjacent caſtle, a knight valiant and prudent, who had one of his eyes knocked out SIR ROBERT POUNDERLING.

* *Llwyd's Itin.* † *Powel*, 307. ‡ Same, 326. § *Hengwrt, MS.*
‖ *Llwyd's Itin. MS.*

by

by a gentleman of *Wales*, in the rough ſport of tournament; but being requeſted to challenge him again to *feates of armes*, on meeting our countryman at the *Engliſh* court, declined the combat, declaring that he did not intend that the *Welſhman* ſhould beat out his other eye *.

Moel Hiraddug, a *Britiſh* poſt, on a very ſteep and rocky hill, with an immenſe agger of looſe ſtones on the acceſſible part, ſtands to the ſouth of the caſtle, and forms the next to it in the chain of fortreſſes †. On the eaſt ſide, and on a place called *Marion*, are long deep trenches, out of which minerals have been dug, probably in the times of the *Saxons:* the ore appears, by the fragments, and color of the rubbiſh, to have been iron: and on the ſummit of the hill (which is in the pariſh of *Cwm)* is a great bed of beautiful red ſpar, which ſeems to take its tinge from the ore.

CWM CHURCH. *Cwm* church, as the word ſignifies, is emboſomed with hills, and fronts the vale of *Clwyd*. On a very antient ſtone in the church-yard is this inſcription, *Hic jacet* TANGWISTE, *uxor* LLEWELIN *ap* INIR; but whether of *Inir* of *Yale* is uncertain.

FROM *Diſerth* I rode to *Bod-Rhyddan*, long the reſidence of the *Conways*, a family derived from Sir *Hugh Conway*, ſon of old *John Coniers*, of *Richmond*, *Yorkſhire*, brother to *Jevan* Lord *Coniers* ‡: his ſon Sir *Henry*, by marriage with *Angharat*, heireſs to Sir *Hugh Crevecœur*, of *Preſtatyn* §, probably acquired the ſettlement in this country. *Preſtatyn* continued poſſeſſed by the *Conways* till the death of Sir *John Conway*, Baronet, in 1721, the laſt of the male line, when the eſtate was divided.

* *Leland's Itin.* vi. 23. † *Tour in Wales.* ‡ Mr. *W. Mytton's Coll. Pedigrees.* § *Salusbury Pedigree*, p. 68. b.

About

About a mile and a half farther ſtands the ſmall borough of *Rhuddlan*, ſeated high on the red, clayey banks of the *Clwyd*, and above *Morfa-Rhuddlan*, a marſh celebrated for the battle in 795, between the *Saxons* and *Welſh*: our monarch *Caradoc* fell in the conflict *, and, I fear, victory declared againſt us. We do indeed ſay, that *Offa*, the famous king of *Mercia*, was ſlain here; but the *Saxon* chronicle places his death † the year before that battle. The fine plaintive *Welſh* tune, ſo well known by the name of *Morfa-Rhuddlan*, is ſuppoſed to have been compoſed on this occaſion: for victories are not the only ſubjects for the harp. How beautifully does *David* lament the blood of the ſlain on the mountains of *Gilboa*: How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Castle.

The caſtle had been a handſome building, in a ſquare, with two extremes placed at oppoſite corners, with a double round tower at each; and a ſingle one at the two other corners. The court forms an irregular octagon. The ditch is large, faced on both ſides with ſtone. The ſteep ſlope to the river was defended by high walls, and ſquare towers: one is entire, and there are veſtiges of two others: the firſt is called *Twr-y-Silod*; another, in the caſtle, was named *Twr-y-Brenhin*, or the *King's Tower*.

To the ſouth of the caſtle, at about a furlong diſtance, is a large artificial mount, the ſite of another fortreſs, of very early date; the whole ſurrounded by a very deep foſs (including alſo the abby) which croſſes from the margin of the bank, near the aſcent of the preſent road to *St. Aſaph*, to another parallel road; near which it is continued, then turns and falls nearly into the ſouthern part of the

* *Powel*, 20. † *Sax.* ch. 65.

walled ditch of the caſtle: the whole forms a ſquare area, of very great extent. Theſe different works were formed at three ſeveral times. The mount, now called *Tut-Hill*, and its ſuperſtructure, (whatever it was) is thoroughly *Britiſh*, and is ſaid to have been built by *Llewelyn ap Sitſylt*, who reigned from the year 1015 to 1020*. It was a reſidence of our princes from that time: but *Gryffyd ap Llewelyn*, in 1063, having given offence to *Edward the Confeſſor*, by receiving *Algar*, one of his rebellious ſubjects, was attacked by *Harold*, who in revenge burned the palace at *Rhuddlan* †. It was ſoon reſtored, and as ſoon loſt. *Robert*, afterwards ſurnamed of *Rhuddlan*, a valiant *Norman*, nephew to *Hugh Lupus*, earl of *Cheſter*, conquered it from the *Welſh*, and, by the command of *William* the Conqueror, fortified it with new works ‡, and made it his place of reſidence; from whence he greatly annoyed our countrymen. The ſquare towers are evidently of *Norman* architecture, and naturally adopted by the new owner. *Robert* received here a viſit from our prince *Gryffydd ap Kynan*, who came to ſollicit aid againſt his enemies, from the *Norman* warrior; which he obtained: but on ſome quarrel attacked him in his caſtle, took and burnt the bailey, or yard, and killed ſuch a number of his men, that very few eſcaped into the towers §.

Henry II. in 1157, added new ſtrength to the caſtle, and left a conſiderable garriſon in it before he quitted the country. Notwithſtanding this, *Owen Gwynedd*, in 1167, took and diſmantled

* *Cambden*, ii.
† *Powel*, 100.
‡ *Order. Vital.* 670.
§ Life of *Gr. ap Kynan*. SEBRIGHT MSS.

it;

it; but it was afterwards re-fortified by the *Engliſh*; for it appears that this fortreſs had, with two others, been beſtowed by *Henry*, with *Emma* his natural ſiſter, on *David ap Owen*, ſon and ſucceſſor to *Owen Gwynedd*. Here, in 1187, he entertained, very nobly, *Baldwin* archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, in his progreſs through *Wales* *. Poſſibly he reſigned it again to the *Engliſh*; for I find that in 1214 it was beſieged and taken by *Llewelyn ap Jorwerth*, his ſucceſſor in the principality †.

I MUST not omit relating, notwithſtanding I am unable to give the year of the event, that *Randle Blundeville*, earl of *Cheſter*, was in this caſtle ſurprized by a body of *Welſh*, and lay in the utmoſt diſtreſs, until he was relieved by his lieutenant, *Roger Lacy*, alias *Hell*; who collecting ſuddenly a rabble of fiddlers and idle people, put the beſiegers to flight. In reward, he received from the earl, *Magiſterium omnium Leccatorum et meretricum* TOTIUS CESTRESHIRE ‡.

I FIND it in poſſeſſion of *Edward* I. in 1277; who was ſo well convinced of its importance in the conqueſt of *Wales*, that he made it the rendezvous of all the forces deſtined for that purpoſe. It was the *place d'armes*, and the great magazine of proviſion for the ſupport of his army, in its advance into the country. The reigning prince, *Llewelyn ap Gryffydd*, knew the danger of leaving ſo conſequential a place in the hands of his enemy: but it reſiſted all the moſt vigorous efforts made on it in 1281, by *Llewelyn* and his brother *David*, juſt reconciled to him by the ſenſe of their com-

* *Girald Cambr. Itin.* 872.

† *Powel*, 270.

‡ *Leiceſter*, 142. This Earl of *Cheſter* held his earldom from 1182 to 1232.

mon danger. Soon after, it proved the place of confinement to the latter, not long before his ignominious end at *Shrewſbury*.

In order to ſecure it from any future attempts, *Edward* turned all his thoughts towards founding a fortreſs impregnable by any future attempts of the *Welſh*. He accordingly began with an act of juſtice, that of making recompence to *Maſter Richard Bernard*, parſon of *Rhuddlan*, for certain lands taken from him for the purpoſe of enlarging the caſtle *; and again, in 1282, made an exchange with the ſame church, of ſix acres and a half, for the ſame uſes †: and on which he built the caſtle, whoſe ruins we now ſurvey. The finiſhing of it took a conſiderable time; for I find an order in 1291, for overlooking the works at the caſtles of *Rhuddlan*, *Flint*, and *Cheſter* ‡. I cannot but remark here, the ſtrong neceſſity of curbing the new-conquered country with powerful garriſons; for notwithſtanding all the ravages of long and barbarous wars, it remained ſo exceedingly populous, that *Edward* politically drafted out of it not leſs than fifteen thouſand men, in aid of his *Scottiſh* expedition §. The conſequence proved almoſt fatal to him: for while he lay encamped near *Linlithgow*, a national quarrel enſued between the *Engliſh* and *Welſh* troops; and after great bloodſhed, the latter ſeparated themſelves from his army ‖.

Taken by Gen. Mytton.

During the civil wars of the laſt century, it was garriſoned on the part of the king; was taken by general *Mytton* in *July* 1646; and in the ſame year ordered by the parlement (in the phraſe of

* *Ayloff's Rot. Walliæ.* 75.
† *Sebright MS.*
‡ *Rot. Walliæ.* 98.
§ *Carte*, II. 264.
‖ *Dalrymple's Annals*, II. 257.

the

the times) to be ſlighted, *i. e.* diſmantled, with many other *Welſh* caſtles *.

In reſpect to the civil hiſtory of *Rhuddlan*, I find, that in the reign of *Edward the Confeſſor*, it made part of the great territories of earl *Edwin*. It was then, by reaſon of the inroads of *Harold*, a waſte; and continued ſo when it was poſſeſſed by *Hugh Lupus*. It then became the capital of the diſtrict: and *Hugh* enjoyed a moiety of the church, the mint, and mines of the iron ore found in the manor †; and a moiety of the water of *Clwyd*, *i. e.* of the mill and fiſhery on ſuch part which belonged to earl *Edwin*; a moiety of the foreſts on the manor, and of the toll, and of the village called *Bren*: and there were at this time in *Rhuddlan* eight burgeſſes. All this *Hugh Lupus* granted to *Robert* of *Rhuddlan*, with an addition of certain hamlets dependent on the place; and a new borough was erected, with eighteen burgeſſes, who enjoyed the ſame privileges with thoſe of *Hereford* and *Bretril*; and were exempted from all fines exceeding twelve-pence, except in caſe of manſlaughter, theft, and *heinfare*, *i. e.* the depriving a perſon of his ſervant ‡.

A Borough.

Edward I. made this town a free borough, appointed the conſtable of the caſtle for the time being to be mayor, and the bailiffs to be choſen annually by the burgeſſes on *Michaelmas*-day, who were to be preſented to the conſtable to be ſworn. The town

* *Whitelock*, 231.

† Probably thoſe which we have mentioned in the pariſh of *Cwm*, to which this manor might have extended; for *Diſſarch*, or *Diſerth*, adjoining to *Cwm*, is cited in *Doomſday-Book* as belonging to it.

‡ *Doomſday-Book*.

was

was to have power of impriſoning, except in ſuch caſes which affected the life, or loſs of limb: when criminals of this nature were to be committed to the caſtle, burgeſſes only were permitted to bail. No *Jews* were to inhabit the town. The burgeſſes had a foreſt and free warren; a *gild cum hanſa et loth et ſhoth, ſok ſak et theam et infangentheſt et lib. per totam terram de Theoloniis, leſtagio, Muragio, Danegeld, Gaywite*, &c.

THIS charter was given by the King at *Flint, September* 8th, in the twelfth year of his reign; *Teſtibus, Rob. Bath & Wells*, &c. and confirmed by *Richard* II. at *Leiceſter*, and again at *Weſtminſter*.

No conſtable has been appointed ſince the days of *Oliver Cromwel*.

THE burgeſſes contribute towards electing a member for the borough of *Flint*. Thoſe who are qualified inhabit the place, and that part of the pariſh called *Rhuddlan Franchiſe*, which extends above a mile from the town.

ITS PARLEMENT. THE parlement ſaid to have been held here in 1283, by *Edward* I. was probably no more than a council aſſembled by the conqueror, to divide his new conqueſts into counties, and to give ſalutary laws to the *Welſh*; to aboliſh any antient cuſtoms which the wiſe prince thought detrimental, and to introduce ſuch of the *Engliſh* as would prove of uſe. This was not done haſtily; for in the year preceding, a commiſſion had been appointed, with *Thomas Beke*, biſhop of *St. David*, preſident; who were to conſider and report upon oath the different laws of both countries. From their reſolutions were framed the famous STATUTE OF RHUDDLAN; in which, among many excellent inſtitutions, were introduced

ſheriffs

ſheriffs and coroners, their powers defined, and the principal crimes of the times pointed out: moſt of which were acts of violence, rapine, and theft; ſuch as might be expected to exiſt among people: an evil which reſulted more from the turbulence of the times, than the want of wholeſome laws *.

A PIECE of antient building, called the Parlement Houſe, is ſtill to be ſeen in *Rhuddlan*; probably the place where the king ſat in council. From hence he actually practiſed the well-known deceit of giving them a prince born among them, who never ſpoke a word of *Engliſh*, and whoſe life and converſation no man was able to ſtain †: all which our diſcontented nobility eagerly accepted, little thinking the perſon intended, to be the infant *Edward*, juſt born at *Caernarvon*.

THE bridge conſiſts of two arches. It appears to have been rebuilt or repaired in 1595: that date, with the arms of *St. Aſaph*, and the initials of *William Hughes*, the biſhop of that time, being cut in the battlements. The tides flow very little higher than this place; and bring up to the bridge flats or veſſels of about ſeventy tons. The port of theſe parts is about three miles further, at the *vorryd*, or *great ford*, where the river diſcharges itſelf into the ſea; and from whence much corn and timber is exported. BRIDGE.

THE houſe called the *Gwindy*, or Wine Houſe, muſt not be forgotten. There are few towns in *Wales* which have not one of that name: but the uſe has long been loſt. In old times, GWINDY.

* See the *Statuta Walliæ* paſſim.

† *Powel*, 376.

moſt gentlemen's houſes had one in their neighborhood, where they met their friends and retainers, to *ymgampio*, or to exert feats of activity. Here the gentleman kept a wine cellar, which he retailed for his own profit. Here they paſſed the day in archery, wreſtling, throwing the ſledge, and other manly exerciſes. At firſt, the drinking was moderate: but at length the purpoſe was abuſed; and theſe places were made the ſanctuary for all ſorts of crimes, committed by the dependents or friends of the owner of the *Gwindy*, who were recommended to his care: and there *Llawruddion*, *i. e.* perſons who came *red-handed* from a murder, were protected till compoſition could be made for their crimes.

CHURCH. THE church is dedicated to *St. Mary*. It has nothing remarkable about it, except an antient grave-ſtone, with a flowery croſs and ſword; the laſt the mark of the gentility of the perſon interred. The patronage of this church was granted in 1284 to the ſee of *St. Aſaph*, in recompence for the loſs of that of *Eglwys-vach*, which had been taken from it, and beſtowed on the abby of *Conway* *.

THE priory of black-friers, ſtood about half a mile ſouth of the caſtle. There is a fragment which bears the marks of antiquity the reſt is diſguiſed in the form of a farm-houſe and barn. We do not know the time of its foundation: but it was certainly before the conqueſt by *Edward* I. as *Anian*, or *Eineon de Schonan*, a friar of this houſe, was made biſhop of *St. Aſaph* in 1268. It ſuffered much in the wars between *Edward* and *Llewelyn*, but ſoon recovered its loſſes, towards which they were allowed 17 *l.* 10 *s.* †

* *Willis's St. Aſaph*, 159. *Rot. Walliæ*, 92.

† *Rymer*, ii. 292.

beſides

beſides a grant of a fiſhery on the *Clwyd* with one net, free from any obſtruction *. On the diſſolution, the houſe was granted to *Harry ap Harry*, and now belongs to *John Davies*, eſq; of *Llanerch*.

Near this place were certain lands, called *Nunneland* and *St. Marieland* †: but whether they had reference to any houſe of female religious, I cannot ſay.

The hoſpital, which exiſted in 1281, ſtood between the town and *Bodyryddan*.

As ſoon as *Edward* I. had finiſhed the fortifications of *Rhuddlan*, and filled his new town with inhabitants, he and biſhop *Anian* II. made different petitions to the pope, to remove the ſee of *St. Aſaph* to this place ‡. They urged the ſolitude and inſecurity of the former; its hazard from *banditti*; and the danger to which the body of the moſt glorious confeſſor *St. Aſaph* was continually expoſed: and the king in particular adds, the great ſafety of this place, by reaſon of the vaſt works he had completed. But theſe petitions never took effect: fruſtrated either by the death of the pope, or the exhortion of the archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, to rebuild the cathedral on its antient ſite.

A little beyond the priory I deſcended the bank, and fording the *Clwyd*, ſoon came in ſight of *St. Aſaph*. The handſome extenſive bridge, the little town, and the cathedral mixed with trees, form a moſt agreeable view. The place is ſeated on the ſlope of a pleaſant eminence: the cathedral on its ſummit. The *Clwyd* St. Asaph.

* *Rot. Walliæ.* 90.

† *Sebright MSS.*

‡ *Rymer*, ii. 245. *Willis's St. Aſaph*, 45. 149. 155.

runs on the eaſtern ſide: the *Elwy*, a moſt turbulent ſtream, on the weſtern: and from the laſt is taken the *Britiſh* name of *Llan-Elwy*. The townſhip in which it ſtands, is alſo called *Bryn-Paulin*; and one part of it, *Bron y Wylfa*, or the *brow of the watch*: from which circumſtances, as well as the great fitneſs of the ſituation, between two rivers, I cannot but think that it was a place of encampment of *Paulinus*, in his way to or from *Mona*.

See. Its eccleſiaſtical hiſtory may be ſpoken of with more certainty. When *Kentigern*, biſhop of *Glaſgow*, was driven from his ſee in 543, he retired into *Wales*, and eſtabliſhed here a monaſtery for nine hundred and ſixty-five monks, inſtituted on the ſame plan with that of *Bangor*; part for labor, part for prayer. Here he built a church; and having won over the *Britiſh* prince *Maglocunus*, once his violent opponent, eſtabliſhed here a ſee, and was himſelf the firſt biſhop. Being recalled to *Scotland*, he nominated for ſucceſſor, *Aſaph*, or *Haſſaph*, a *Briton* of great piety and good family (being grandſon of *Pabo pou Prydain*). He died in 596, was buried in his cathedral, and gave name to the place.

Cathedral. The church was firſt built of wood; but ſoon after, of ſtone. In 1247, during the wars of *Henry* III. the dioceſe was deſtroyed by fire and ſword *, and the biſhop, who ſided with the *Engliſh*, obliged to live on alms. In 1282, the cathedral was burnt down; but ample amends was made to the ſee, by the grant of *Edward* I. of lands in *Newmarket*, *Nannerch*, *Dincolyn*, *Cwed y Mynedd*, and a rich mineral tract in *Diſerth*: four hundred and nine acres were given, each of which appears at that time to be valued at only

* *Matthew Paris*, 642.

ſix-

ſix-pence *. In 1402, the church underwent new misfortunes; being burnt by *Owen Glyndwr*, together with the palace, and canons houſes; who, ſtrange to ſay! ſoon after brought over to his party, *John Trevor*, the injured biſhop of the ſee, who was deprived on account of his revolt. After this, the church remained in ruins for eighty years, when it was re-built by that worthy prelate, *Richard Redman*. The ſame building ſtill remains, handſome, plain, and neat. The preſent dean and chapter are now rebuilding (out of a fund veſted in them for that purpoſe) the choir, after the inevitable dilapidations of time in the ſpace of near four hundred years. The good imitation of the gothic, and the happy copy in the eaſt window, of the noble remains in *Tintern* abby, will add no ſmall beauty to the church, and credit to the idea.

TOMBS.

The tombs are very few. Here is one in an epiſcopal habit, ſuppoſed to commemorate that munificent biſhop, *David ap Owen*, who died in 1512; and in the church-yard, near the weſt door, is a plain altar monument of biſhop *Iſaac Barrow*, who departed in 1680: and whoſe pious addreſs I can read without any offence, howſoever papiſtical zealots may think it.

Exuviæ Isaaci Asaphensis Epiſcopi
In manum Domini depoſitæ
In ſpem letæ reſurrectionis
Per ſola Christi merita,
Obiit dictus Reverendus Pater feſti D. Johannis Baptistæ,
An. Dom. 1680. Ætatis 67.
Et tranſlationis ſuæ undecimo.

* *Sebright MSS.*

O vos tranſeuntes in Domum Domini
In Domum orationis
Orate pro conſervo veſtro,
Ut inveniat miſericordiam in die Domini.

IN the church-yard of the pariſh-church, is another tomb, ſingular enough, with foliage, a ſhield with a lion rampant, inſcribed around, *Hic jacet Ranulfus de Smalwode*; and beneath the ſhield paſſes a ſword, held by a hand. It is ſaid to have been brought from *Rhuddlan*; but we are left unacquainted with the perſon whoſe memory it perpetuates *.

THIS church ſtands at the lower part of the town, and ſerves for the uſe of the inhabitants of the town and country, the cathedral not being uſed for that purpoſe.

THE members of the chapter are the dean, archdeacon, (who is the biſhop) ſix prebendaries, and ſeven canons. Beſides theſe, belong to the church, four vicars choral, four ſinging-men, four choriſters, and an organiſt.

THE preſent palace is not very magnificent. The walls are the ſame with thoſe built by biſhop *David ap Owen*, reſtorer of the houſe, in 1503, after it had lain in ruins a hundred years.

THE dioceſe comprehends all *Flintſhire*, excepting *Hawarden*; all *Denbighſhire*, but the deanery of *Dyffrin Clwyd*; all *Montgomeryſhire*, excepting ſeven pariſhes; and the hundreds of *Mowddwie*,

* An old drawing of this, and ſome other antient *Welſh* monuments, were moſt obligingly preſented to me, by that excellent antiquary, the Rev. Mr. *William Cole*, of *Milton*, near *Cambridge*; a gentleman, to whom I have been frequently indebted for variety of uſeful information.

Penllyn, and *Ideirnion*, in *Meirionyddſhire*: and treſpaſſes a little even on *Shropſhire*. The number of livings are a hundred and thirty; of which all, except ſeven *, are in the patronage of the biſhop: as is the valuable deanery.

THE road from *St. Aſaph* along the common called the *Row*, is extremely beautiful: is watered by the *Elwy*, which runs beneath lofty banks, finely wooded: at its extremity is *Pont yr allt Gôch*, a noble bridge of one lofty arch, eighty-five feet in diameter. The *Elwy* here takes another direction, running weſt, and then north, along moſt romantic dingles, varied with meadows, woods, and cavernous rocks: neither is it deſtitute of antiquities. *Y fynnon vair*, or our lady's well, a fine ſpring, incloſed in an angular wall, formerly roofed; and the ruins of a croſs-ſhaped chapel, finely over-grown with ivy, exhibit a venerable view, in a deep wooded bottom, not remote from the bridge: and this, in days of pilgrimage, the frequent haunt of devotees.

PENCRAIG. THE moſt capital view of theſe pictureſque glens, is from *Pencraig*, on the grounds of Mrs. *Jones*, of *Galt-vaenan*; from whence is a ſight of three at once, together with an unſpeakable variety of other objects, extremely worthy a viſit from every traveller.

AT *Llannerch*, the chief ſeat of my kinſman, *John Davies*, eſq; formerly called *Lleweni Vechan*, about half a mile to the eaſt of the bridge, I ſtopped a while to admire the charming view of the vale of *Clwyd*, with the magnificent boundary between it and *Flintſhire*. The intervening plain is of matchleſs fertility: incloſures creep high up the hills; the remaining part is divided into

* Viz. Holywell, *Flintſhire*; Kevedoc, alias St. George, *Denbighſhire*; Kinnerſley, Oſweſtry, Knocking, Whittington, Selattin, *Salop*.

various

various ſummits, in the ſeaſon, glowing to the ſetting ſun with the purple flowers of the heath. Churches and neat manſions enliven the ſcene. From *Tremeirchion-Green*, placed high above *Llannerch*, is a very fine view of the whole vale, of the weſtern boundary, and the lofty tract of *Snowdon*. The middle, from end to end, is enriched with towns and caſtles; among which riſes ſupreme, the rock of *Denbigh*, topped with its great fortreſs.

In *Tremeirchion* church is the mutilated tomb of Sir *Robert Pounderling*, before mentioned. By his croſſed legs, it ſeems he had attained the merit of pilgrimage to the holy ſepulchre.

Dafydd Ddu. Under a handſome gothic arch lies, in prieſtly veſtments, well executed, the image of *Dafydd Ddu*, or the black of *Hiraddug*. Underneath is inſcribed, *Hic jacet* David ap Roderic ap Madog. He was vicar of this place, and dignitary of *St. Aſaph*: prophet and poet: and had a great concern in regulating our proſody. The *Daroganeu*, or prophecies of *Robin Ddu*, ſo celebrated in *North Wales*, I believe properly belong to *Dafydd*, who flouriſhed in 1340, above a hundred years before the time of *Robin*.

In this church ſtood a croſs, celebrated for its miracles, which are celebrated in an *owdwl*, or poem, about the year 1500, by *Gryffydd ap Ifan ap Llen vychan*. The croſs is now demoliſhed; but the carved capital is ſtill to be ſeen, in a building adjoining to the church-yard.

In the bottom, not far from *Tremerchion*, lies, half buried in woods, the ſingular houſe of *Bachegraig*. It conſiſts of a manſion, and three ſides, incloſing a ſquare court. The firſt conſiſts of a vaſt hall, and parlour: the reſt of it riſes into ſix wonderful ſto-

ries, including the cupola; and forms from the ſecond floor the figure of a pyramid: the rooms ſmall, and inconvenient. The bricks are admirable, and appear to have been made in *Holland*; and the model of the houſe was probably brought from *Flanders*, where this ſpecies of building was not unfrequent. The country people ſay, that it was built by the devil, in one night, and that the architect ſtill preſerves an apartment in it: but Sir *Richard Clough*, an eminent merchant in the reign of queen *Elizabeth*, ſeems to have a better title to the honor. The initials of his name are in iron on the front, with the date 1567; and on the gate-way that of 1569.

Sir *Richard* was a man of diſtinguiſhed character, who raiſed himſelf, by his merit, from a poor boy at *Denbigh*, to one of the greateſt merchants of his time. He was firſt a choriſter at *Cheſter* *: then had the good fortune to become apprentice to the famous Sir *Thomas Greſham*; and afterwards his partner. His reſidence was chiefly at *Antwerp*, where his body was interred: his heart in *Whichurch*, a neighbouring church. He is ſaid to have made a pilgrimage to *Jeruſalem*, and to have been made knight of the *holy ſepulchre*: this is confirmed; for he aſſumed the five croſſes, the badge of that order, for his arms †. His wealth was ſo great, that *Efe a aeth yn Glough*, or *He is become a* Clough grew into a proverb, on the attainment of riches by any perſon. He left two daughters: one he beſtowed, with this houſe, and certain tythes in *Llein*, on *Roger Saluſbury*, a younger ſon of *Llewenni*: the other on a *Wynne*, of *Melay*, with whom he gave

* *Fuller*'s Br. Worthies. *Flintſhire*, p. 40.

† *Saluſbury Pedigree*, 17

the

the abby of *Maenan*. Sir *Richard* meditated great things for the advantage of his country: he deſigned to make the *Clwyd* navigable from *Rhuddlan*; to have introduced commerce; and to have made the ſides of his court the magazines, from which he was to diſpenſe his imports to the neighboring parts.

In front of the houſe, croſs the *Clwyd* on *Pont y Cambull*, and, turning to the left, croſs it again at *Pont Gryffydd*, in order to ſearch in the pariſh of *Bodfari*, for the antient *Varis*. Soon enter the deep paſs, formed by nature in the *Clwydian* hills, from the vales into the county of *Flint*. But neither my own examination, or that of ſome intelligent friends, availed any thing. The ſole remaining antiquity is *Britiſh*; a poſt on a hill to the left, called *Moel y Gaer*, or the hill of the camp. The beauty of the ride makes amends for the diſappointment. The vale is narrow, fertile, diverſified with groves, and watered by the cryſtal *Wheeler*. The part about *Maes mynan* is ſingularly fine, conſiſting of detached hills, cloathed with timber; a charming extent of meadows; and the lofty mountain *Moel y parc*, ſkirted with trees, contraſting itſelf to the ſofter part of the ſcenery. This place is at preſent the property of Sir *Roger Moſtyn*, purchaſed by one of his family from the *Maſſies*, a name which repreſented the county of *Flint* as early as the firſt of queen *Mary* *. This place has been called *Llŷs Maes Mynan*, or the palace of *Maes Mynan*, where *Llewelyn ap Gryffydd*, laſt prince of *Wales*, reſided in a houſe, whoſe foundations, till within theſe few years, were to be ſeen in an adjacent meadow †.

* *Willis*'s Not. Parliam. ii. part 2nd. 25.

† *Hiſt. Gwedir*. 28.

But there is no part of this vale that furniſhed me with the leſt veſtige of the *Roman* ſtation, *Varis*, mentioned by *Antonine*, in his eleventh *Iter*. and placed at nineteen or twenty-one miles diſtant from *Conovium*, or *Caer-hên*; for there appears an uncertainty in the reading.

Quit the turnpike road on the left; ford the *Wheler*; and, after croſſing the *Clwyd*, reach *Lleweni*. On this ſpot is ſaid to have reſided, about the year 720, *Marchweithian*, one of the fifteen tribes or nobility of *North Wales*. At preſent it is the ſeat of the honorable *Thomas Fitzmaurice*, lately purchaſed by him from Sir *Robert Saluſbury Cotton*, baronet, of *Cumbermere-Abby*, in *Cheſhire*. That gentleman poſſeſſed this place by the marriage of his anceſtor, Sir *Robert Cotton*, with *Heſter*, ſiſter to Sir *John Saluſbury*, the laſt baronet of his name, in the time of *Charles* II. The *Saluſburies* were an *Engliſh* family, ſettled here before the time of *Henry* III. Several of the portraits were transferred with the eſtate, to the preſent owner, and preſerved in the magnificent old hall. Sir *John Saluſbury the Strong*, is repreſented on board, a half length, with ſhort duſky hair, beardleſs, in a yellow figured jacket, a vaſt ruff, and one hand on his ſword: dated 1591: æt. 24. He ſucceeded to the eſtate on the execution of his elder brother *Thomas*, who ſuffered in 1586, for his concern in *Babington*'s plot. A picture, ſuppoſed to be his, is to be ſeen here; repreſenting him in a grey and black veſt, dark hair, ſhort whiſkers, buſhy beard, and with an ear-ring: his bonnet in his hand; his breaſt naked.

Sir John Salusbury.

I. Sir Thomas.

Sir *Henry*, the firſt baronet, is placed ſitting in his ſhirt; his boſom naked: over one arm is caſt a red mantle: his breeches red, with points at his knees; his ſtockings purple; his ſlippers

Sir Henry.

rich in lace; his beard buſhy; his whiſkers ſmall: he is ſeated in a balcony, as if at his toilet. I have ſeen here a fine picture of

II. Sir Thomas. his eldeſt ſon, Sir *Thomas*, as much diſtinguiſhed by his pen as his ſword. He appears as if on the point of quitting his family, to join the army; for he was a diſtinguiſhed loyaliſt in the time of *Charles* I. He is taking leave of his lady and three children; is dreſſed in a buff ſurtout, brown boots, with a rich ſcymetar by his ſide; attended by two grehounds, a groom, dreſſed in a long canvas gown, holding a horſe, with the arms of the houſe on the man's ſhoulders, by way of badge. This gentleman was educated at *Jeſus College, Oxford:* and having, as *Wood* * ſays, a natural geny to poetry and romance, exerciſed himſelf much in thoſe juvenile ſtudies; and produced from his pen, the *Hiſtory of Joſeph*, in *Engliſh* verſe, in thirteen chapters. He retired to *Lleweni*; and died in 1643.

Catherine y Berain. I must not omit the portrait of a lady, exceedingly celebrated in this part of *Wales*; the famous *Catherine Tudor*, better known by the name of *Catherine* of *Berain*, from her ſeat in this neighborhood. She was daughter and heireſs of *Tudor ap Robert Fychan*, of *Berain:* ſhe took for her firſt huſband *John Saluſbury*, heir of *Lleweni*; and on his death gave her hand to Sir *Richard Clough*. The tradition goes, that at the funeral of her beloved ſpouſe, ſhe was led to church by Sir *Richard*, and from church by *Morris Wynne*, of *Gwedir*, who whiſpered to her his wiſh of being her ſecond: ſhe refuſed him with great civility, informing him, that ſhe had accepted the propoſals of Sir *Richard*, in her way to

* *Athen. Oxon.* ii. 25.

church;

church; but aſſured him (and was as good as her word) that in caſe ſhe performed the ſame ſad duty (which ſhe was then about) to the knight, he might depend on being her third. From this match I have the honor of ſome of *Catherine*'s blood in my veins. As ſoon as ſhe had compoſed this gentleman, to ſhew that ſhe had no ſuperſtition about the number THREE, ſhe concluded with *Edward Thelwal*, of *Plas y Ward*, eſq; departed this life *Auguſt* 27; and was interred at *Llanivydd* on the 1ſt of *September*, 1591.

HER portrait is an excellent three-quarters, on wood. The plate repreſents the dreſs. By the date, 1568, it ſeems to have been painted by *Lucas de Heere*; the only artiſt which I know of in that period, equal to the performance. I was told, that in the locket ſhe wore to the gold chain, was the hair of her ſecond and favorite huſband.

Lleweni, notwithſtanding it lies on a flat, has moſt pleaſing views of the mountains on each ſide of the vale: the town and caſtle of *Denbigh* form moſt capital objects, at the diſtance of two miles: and the nearer environs of the place, promiſe to animate the country by the commercial ſpirit of their active maſter.

David, brother of our laſt *Llewelyn*, makes great complaints of the havock made by *Reginald de Grey*, juſtice of *Cheſter*, in cutting down his wood of *Lleweni* *; which *David* probably held as lord of *Denbigh*.

ABOUT a mile and a half weſt of this houſe, viſit the church of *Whitchurch*, or *St. Marcellus*, the pariſh church of *Denbigh*. In the porch, a ſmall braſs ſhews, kneeling at an altar, *Richard Middelton* (governor of *Denbigh* caſtle under *Edward* VI. *Mary*, and

* *Powel*, 350.

Elizabeth) who, with *Jane* his wife, was interred beneath. Behind him are nine ſons: behind her ſeven daughters. He died in 1575: ſhe in 1565. His virtues are rehearſed in the following quaint lines:

In vayn we bragg and boaſt of blood, in vayne of ſinne we vaunte,
Syth fleſh and blood muſt lodge at laſt where nature did us graunte.
So where he lyeth that lyved of late with love and favour muche,
To fynde his friend, to feel his foes, his country ſkante had ſuche.
When lyff did well reporte his death, whoſe death hys lyff doth trye,
And poyntes with fynger what he was that here in claye doth lye.
His virtues ſhall enroll his actes, his tombe ſhall tell his name,
His ſonnes and daughters left behind, ſhall blaze on Erth his fame.
Look under feete and you ſhall fynde, upon the ſtone yow ſtande,
The race he ranne, the lyff he lead, each with an upright hand.

Several of the ſons were men of diſtinguiſhed characters. The third, *William*, was a ſea captain, and an eminent poet. His early education was at *Oxford*: but his military turn led him abroad, where he ſignalized himſelf as ſoldier and ſailor. He tranſlated the pſalms into *Welſh* metre, and finiſhed them on *Jan.* 4th, 1595, *apud* Scutum *inſulam occidentalium Indorum*; which, as well as his *Barddoniaeth*, or art of *Welſh* poetry, were publiſhed in *London*: the firſt in 1603, the other in 1593 *. It is ſayed, that he, with captain *Thomas Price*, of *Plâsyollin*, and one captain *Koet*, were the firſt who ſmoked, or (as they called it) drank tobacco publickly in *London*; and that the *Londoners* flocked from all parts to ſee them †. Pipes were not then invented, ſo they uſed the

* *Athen. Oxon.* i. 284.
† *Sebright MSS.*

twiſted

twiſted leaves, or *ſegars*. The invention is uſually aſcribed to Sir *Walter Raleigh*. It may be ſo; but he was too good a courtier to ſmoke in public, eſpecially in the reign of *James*, who even condeſcended to write a book againſt the practice, under the title of *The Counter-blaſt to Tobacco*.

Thomas, the fourth ſon, became lord mayor of *London*, and was the founder of the family of *Chirkcaſtle*. It is recorded, that having married a young wife in his old age, the famous ſong of *Room for cuckolds, here comes my lord mayor!* was invented on the occaſion *.

Charles, the fifth ſon, ſucceeded his father in the government of *Denbigh* caſtle.

I NOW ſpeak of the ſixth ſon, *Hugh*; a perſon whoſe uſeful life would give luſtre to the greateſt family. This gentleman (afterwards Sir *Hugh)* diſplayed very early his great talents; and began, as we are told by himſelf, by ſearching for coal within a mile of his native place. His attempt did not meet with ſucceſs: his genius was deſtined to act on a greater ſtage. The Capital afforded him ample ſpace for his vaſt attempts: few readers need be told, that he planned and brought to perfection, the great deſign of ſupplying the city with water. This plan was meditated in the reign of *Elizabeth*; but no one was found bold enough to attempt it. In 1608, the dauntleſs WELSHMAN ſtept forth, and SMOTE THE ROCK: and on *Michaelmas* 1613, the waters flowed into the thirſting metropolis. He brought it, in defiance of hills and vallies, reckoning every winding, near thirty-nine miles; conveyed it by aqueducts in ſome places; in others pierced the

* *Myddelton Pedigree, MS.*

high

high grounds, and gave it a ſubterraneous courſe. He was a true prototype of the later genius of ſimilar works; but he ſacrificed private fortune to the public good. Two thouſand pounds a month, which he gained from the *Cardiganſhire* mines, were ſwallowed up in this river *. He received the empty honor of ſeeing himſelf attended by the king, his court, and all the corporation of *London*, among whom was his brother (deſigned mayor for the enſuing year). The waters guſhed out in their preſence, and the great architect received their applauſe, and knighthood; and, in 1622, the title of baronet. His own fair fortune being expended on an undertaking, which now brings in to the proprietors an amazing revenue, he was reduced to become a hireling ſurveyor, and was eminently uſeful in every place where draining or mining was requiſite. I ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak of ſome other of his labors in the courſe of this book. He died in 1631 †. Sir ——— *Myddelton*, the laſt baronet of this branch of the family, died a few years ago. The preſent repreſentative is a widow in diſtreſsful circumſtances: Sir *Hugh* left a certain number of ſhares to the *Goldſmith*'s company, to be divided among the poor members; but, as the huſband of this poor woman happened not to be of the company, the repreſentative of the greateſt benefactor *London* ever had, is, I truſt through ignorance of her caſe, permitted to linger away her days in cruel penury.

HUMFHREY LLWYD.

A MURAL monument needleſsly attempts to preſerve the memory of that great antiquary, *Humphrey Llwyd*. He is repreſen tedin a *Spaniſh* dreſs, kneeling at an altar, beneath a range of

* *Fodinæ Regales*. 32.

† *Myddelton Pedigree MS*.

ſmall arches; above, a multitude of quarterings proclame his long deſcent. He derived himſelf from the *Roſendales* of the north, who ſettled at *Foxhall*, in this neighborhood, in 1297, by marriage with the heireſs of the place. He himſelf was of a branch, which fixed at *Denbigh*. He was educated at *Oxford*, a commoner of *Brazen-noſe* college, and maſter of arts. He returned to his native place, an accompliſhed gentleman. He ſtudied at the univerſity the healing art; but is celebrated as a perſon of great eloquence, an excellent rhetorician, and ſound philoſopher. After the panegyric paſſed on him by *Cambden*, it would be preſumptious to add any thing relative to his great ſkill in the antiquities of our country. He practiſed, for his amuſement, phyſic and muſic. The motto on his portrait, in poſſeſſion of his repreſentative *John Lloyd*, of *Aſton*, eſq; expreſſes his liberal turn of mind: *Hwy pery klod Nagolyd*; FAME IS BETTER THAN WEALTH. In medicine, and the ſtudy of antiquities, he has left ſeveral proofs of his knowlege, which ſeems to have been quite unconfined. He made the map of *England*, for his friend *Ortelius*. For his brother-in-law, lord *Lumley*, (whoſe ſiſter he married) he formed a large collection of uſeful and curious books; which were afterwards purchaſed by *James* I. and now make the moſt valuable part of the *Britiſh Muſeum* *. In his laſt letter to the great geographer *Ortelius* †, he foreſees his own death, which happened ſoon after its date, in *Auguſt* 1568, aged 41. The very ſimple inſcription on the monument promiſes his character; but inſtead, appears only three lines of a pſalm tune.

* *Grainger*, i. 270. For the hiſtory of his works, ſee *Athen. Oxon.* i.

† Prefixed to his *Commentarioli Britannicæ deſcriptionis fragmentum*, 4to *edit.*

THE CORPS AND EARTHLY ſhape doth reſt, Here tombd in your ſight,
Of *Humfrey Lloyd*, Mr of Arte, a famous worthy Wight.
By fortune's hapye Lore he Eſpowſyd and take hys wyfe to be
Barbara, ſecond Syſter to the noble Lord *Lumle:*
Splendian, *Hare*, *Jane*, and *John*, *Humfrey*, Alſo a *Lumley*,
His Children were, of whych be dead *Jane* and eke *Humfrey*.
His famous Monuments and dedes that luſteth for to ſee,
Here in the Epytaph annext ſet forth at large they Be.

THE tomb of Sir *John Saluſbury* is altar-ſhaped: his image, and that of his lady, are placed in it, recumbent; he in armour; ſhe with a great ruff. Nothing is recorded of this good couple, except that Sir *John* died in 1578; and that ten years after ſhe erected this monument to his memory, and I ſuppoſe to her own, a blank being left for the year and day of her departure.

A LITTLE further ſtands *Denbigh*, placed, like *Sterling*, on the ſlope of a great rock, crowned with a caſtle. Its antient *Britiſh* name was *Caſtell Kled vryn yn Rhôs*, or the Craggy Hill in *Rhos*, the former name of the tract in which it is ſeated. The word *Dinbech*, the preſent *Welſh* appellation, ſignifies a ſmall hill, which it is, comparative to the neighboring mountains. The firſt time I find any mention of it, is in the beginning of the reign of *Edward* I. from whom *David*, in defiance of his brother *Llewelyn*, choſe to hold this lordſhip, together with the cantred of *Dyffryn Clwyd* *. He made it his reſidence till the conqueſt of our country; ſoon after which, he was taken near the place, and carried, loaden with irons, to the *Engliſh* monarch at *Rhuddlan*.

THE king politically ſecured his new acquiſitions, by beſtowing ſeveral of the great lordſhips on his followers. He gave that of

* *Rotulæ Walliæ*. 66.

Denbigh

Denbigh to *Henry Lacy*, earl of *Lincoln*, who built the caſtle, and incloſed within a wall the ſmall town he found there. Among other priveleges, he gave his vaſſals liberty of killing and deſtroying all manner of wild beaſts on the lordſhip, except in certain parts reſerved out of the grant; I ſuppoſe for the purpoſe of the particular amuſement of the lord *; for I find, in the reign of *Henry* VI. the names of five parks in this lordſhip, viz. *Moylewike*, *Careſnodooke*, *Kylford*, *Bagh*^{a}, and *Poſey*, of which the king conſtituted *Owen Tudor*, ranger. On the death of *Lacy*, the lordſhip paſſed to *Thomas* earl of *Lancaſter*, by virtue of his marriage with *Alicia*, daughter of the laſt poſſeſſor. After the attainder of *Thomas*, *Edward* II. beſtowed it on *Hugh D'Eſpencer*; who proved an oppreſſive ſuperior, and abridged the inhabitants of the priveleges granted to them by *Lacy* †. By the fatal end of that favorite, it fell again to the crown; and was given by *Edward* III. to another, equally unfortunate, *Roger Mortimer* earl of *March*; whoſe death enabled the king to inveſt with this lordſhip *William Mountacute* earl of *Saluſbury*. He died in 1333: and on the reverſal of the attainder of the earl of *March*, it was reſtored to his family, in the perſon of his grandſon *Roger*: and by the marriage of *Anne*, ſiſter to another *Roger*, laſt earl of *March*, with *Richard Plantagenet* earl of *Cambridge*, it came into the houſe of *York*, and ſo into the crown. Queen *Elizabeth*, in 1563, beſtowed it, as a moſt valuable gift, on her unmerited minion, *Robert Dudley* earl of *Leiceſter*; who ſoon made the country feel the weight of his oppreſſion. Notwithſtanding the tenants made him a preſent of

* *Sebright* MSS. † The ſame.

two thouſand pounds at his firſt entrance into the lordſhip, he remained unſatisfied; he conſtrained the freeholders to raiſe the old rents of 250 *l.* a year, to 8 or 900 *l.* * and at his will incloſed the waſte lands, to the injury of the tenants; who, offended at his rapacity, aroſe, and levelled his encroachments. This was conſtrued into riot and rebellion: two hopeful young men, of the houſe of *Lleweni*, were taken to *Shrewſbury*, tried and executed there, for the pretended offence. He had the inſolence even to mortgage the manor to ſome merchants of *London* †; and, I apprehend, tricked them for their credulity. The various diſorders which roſe from theſe practices, were ſo great, that *Elizabeth* interpoſed, and by charter confirmed the quiet poſſeſſion of the tenants, and allayed the diſcontents ‡. Theſe were again excited in the reign of king *William*, by the vaſt grant made to the earl of *Portland*. The ſame ferments aroſe, and the ſame means were uſed to allay them: at preſent, this, and the other great manors of *Bromefield* and *Yale*, remain in the crown, and are peacefully ſuperintended by a ſteward appointed by the king.

Gates.

The caſtle and incloſed part of the town, took up a very conſiderable ſpace, and were defended by ſtrong walls and towers: the laſt are chiefly ſquare. There are two gates to the outmoſt precinct: that called the *Burgeſſes Tower*, is large, ſquare, and built ſingularly, with ſmall aſhler ſtones. The other was called the *Exchequer Gate*, in which the lord's court was kept. Some few houſes, with moſt beautiful views, are at preſent inhabited in this

* Secret Memoirs of *Robert* earl of *Leiceſter*, 89.

† *Stripe's Annals*, ii. 498.

‡ Baron *Price*'s Speech.

part.

part. *Leland* ſays, that there had been divers rows of ſtreets; but in his time there were ſcarcely eighty houſholders within theſe walls. Here ſtands the chapel, called *St. Hillary's*, formerly belonging to the garriſon, now the place of worſhip for the town. In old times, on every Sunday here were maſſes for the ſouls of *Lacy* and *Percy* *. Not far from it are the remains of an unfiniſhed church, a hundred and ſeventy-five feet long, and ſeventy-one broad, and deſigned to have been ſupported by two rows of pillars. This noble building was begun in 1579, as appears by the date on a foundation-ſtone. It was to this purpoſe; for at preſent it is much defaced:

1mo Martii 1579
Et Regni Re: Elizabethæ 22.
W.

On the other ſide appeared,

Veritas, vita, via. Duo ſunt templa Dei. Unū mūdus I. ein: eſt Pontifex primogenties ejus verbū Dei: Alterum rationalis anima: cujus ſacerdos eſt verus homo.

G. A. †

This church was begun under the auſpices of *Leiceſter*: but it is ſaid that he left off his buildings in *Wales*, by reaſon of the public hatred he had incurred on account of his tyranny ‡. A ſum was afterwards collected, in order to complete the work; CHURCH.

* *Leland* ITIN. v. 61.
† Copied from Dr. *Foulk*'s Papers, among Mr. *Mytton*'s MSS.
‡ *Memoirs*.

but it is ſaid, that when the earl of *Eſſex* paſſed through *Denbigh*, on his *Iriſh* expedition, he borrowed the money deſtined for the purpoſe, which was never repayed; and by that means, the church was left unfiniſhed*.

CASTLE. THE Caſtle crowns the ſummit of the hill, one ſide of which is quite precipitous. The entrance is very magnificent, beneath a gothic arch, over which is the ſtatue of *Henry Lacy*, ſitting in ſtately flowing robes. On each ſide of the gate-way ſtood a large octagonal tower. The breaches in it are vaſt and awful: they ſerve to diſcover the antient manner of building: a double wall appears to have been built, with a great vacancy between, into which was poured all ſorts of rubbiſh, ſtone, and hot mortar, which time conſolidated to a ſtony hardneſs. This part, as *Leland* ſays, was never completed, the work having been deſerted by the earl, on the loſs of his eldeſt ſon, who was accidentally drowned in the well, whoſe opening is ſtill to be ſeen in the caſtle-yard. *Charles* I. lay here on the 23d of *September*, 1645, after his retreat from *Cheſter*, in a tower ſtill called *Siamber y Brenhin*, or the *King's Tower*.

THE proſpect through the broken arches is extremely fine, extending in parts over the whole vale, and all its eaſtern hills, from *Moel Venlli* to *Diſerth* rock; a rich view, but deficient in water: the river *Clwyd* being too ſmall to be ſeen; and in great rains ſo furious, as to overflow a great ſpace of the meadowy tract.

LELAND relates a particular of this fortreſs, which I do not diſcover in any other hiſtorian: he ſays, that *Edward* IV. was beſieged in it; and that he was permitted to retire, on condition

* Dr. *Foulk*'s Papers.

that

M. Griffith del:

DENBIGH CASTLE

that he ſhould quit the kingdom for ever. The only time in which that prince was conſtrained to abdicate his dominions, was in 1470, when he took ſhipping at *Lynn*; not by reaſon of any capitulation with his enemies, but through the deſperate ſituation of his affairs at that period.

Jaſper Tudor, earl of *Pembroke*, had, in the year 1459, poſſeſſed this place, and ſeveral others in the principality, in behalf of his weak half-brother, *Henry* VI. * but they were wreſted from him by the *Yorkiſts* in the following year. In 1468 he returned, was joined by two thouſand *Welſh*, and burnt the town †; meditating rather revenge than conqueſt.

In the beginning of *November* 1645, the parlement army obtained, near this town, a moſt important victory over the royaliſts. The latter, under the command of Sir *William Vaughan*, had formed a conſiderable body of forces, *Welſh* and *Iriſh*, with a deſign of marching to the relief of *Cheſter*, then beſieged: Sir *William Brereton* had notice of the deſign, and immediately detached that able officer *Mytton*, and under him colonel *Jones* and colonel *Louthian*, with one thouſand four hundred horſe, and a thouſand foot, to fruſtrate the plan. *Mytton* did his duty, attacked the royaliſts with vigor, and after ſeveral hot engagements, totally routed them, took five hundred horſe and four hundred foot, killed one hundred, and ſo entirely diſperſed them, as not to leave a hundred together in one place ‡. BATTLE.

In 1646, we find the caſtle garriſoned by the loyaliſts: its go- SIEGE.

* *Dugdale Baron.* ii. 241.

† *Carte.* ii. 775.

‡ *Whitelock*, 179.

vernor

vernor was colonel *William Saluſbury*, of *Bachymbyd*, commonly called *Saluſbury Hoſanau Gleiſiau*, or *Blue Stockings*. The ſiege was begun under the conduct of major-general *Mytton*, about the 16th of *July* *; but ſuch was the gallant defence of the beſieged, that it was not ſurrendered till the 3d of *November*, and then only on the moſt honorable conditions †. It is very remarkable, that notwithſtanding the orders of fallen majeſty, in *June*, for the general ſurrender of every garriſon in *England* and *Wales*, on fair and honorable terms, yet the firſt which yielded in *North Wales*, held out above two months longer than the laſt *Engliſh* caſtle.

PRIORY. THE priory of *Carmelites*, or *White Friars*, ſtood at the bottom of the town. It was founded by *John Saluſbury*, of *Lleweni*, who died, as appeared from a mutilated braſs, found in the conventual church, on the 7th of *March*, 1289 ‡. *Speed* aſcribes the building to one *John de Sunimore*, in 1399; but the inſcription fixes the honor on *Saluſbury*. On the diſſolution, this houſe was granted to *Richard Andreas* and *William L'Iſle*. The church, now converted into a barn, is the only remaining building: it was the burying-place of the family of the founder, till the reformation; and ſome of their tombs were to be ſeen here within memory of man.

TRADE. THE preſent town covers great part of the ſlope of the hill; and ſome ſtreets extend along the plain. Its manufactures in ſhoes and gloves are very conſiderable; and great quantities are

* *Whitelock*, 216.

† The ſame, 226. For the Articles of Capitulation, ſee *Appendix*.

‡ *Collins's Baronets*, Edit. 1720, i. 82.

annually ſent to *London*, to the great warehouſes of the Capital, and for the purpoſes of exportation.

THE conſtitution of this borough, and its origin, will be fully explained by the following tranſcript, communicated to me by one of its burgeſſes. It begins with citing the laſt charter, which is that granted by king *Charles* II. which recites letters patent granted by queen *Elizabeth*, and dated at *Weſtminſter* the 20th of *June*, in the thirty-ninth year of her reign; in which the ſaid queen recites, " That ſeeing *Edward* I. by his letters patent, dated at *Northampton* the 29th of *Auguſt*, in the eighteenth year of his reign, hath granted to *Henry de Lacy*, earl of *Lincoln*, that all his men then inhabiting his town of *Denbigh*, or that ſhould for ever inhabit it, through all his territories, formerly belonging to the king of *Wales*, and alſo through the counties of *Cheſter*, *Salop*, *Stafford*, *Glouceſter*, *Worceſter*, and *Hereford*, ſhould be free and acquitted for ever from all toll, ſtallage, payage, panage, murage, pontage, and paſſage; and ſeeing alſo king *Edward* III. by his letters patent, dated at *York* the 27th of *October*, in the ſixth year of his reign, hath, for himſelf, and his heirs and ſucceſſors, then inhabiting, and afterward to inhabit, the ſaid town, ſhould, through the kingdom and dominions, be free and acquitted from all ſuch toll, ſtallage, payage, murage, pontage, and paſſage; and ſeeing alſo that *Richard* II. by his letters patent, dated at *Weſtminſter* the 22d of *February*, in the ſecond year of his reign, granted to the aboveſaid men, that the aforeſaid town of *Denbigh*, and half a mile compaſs about the town, ſhould be a free borough, and that the men inhabiting, and afterwards to inhabit, ſhould be free burgeſſes; and ſeeing alſo that *Richard* III. by his letters, dated at *Weſtminſter*,

CHARTER.

Weſtminſter the 10th of *December*, in the ſecond year of his reign, confirmed the aforeſaid grants, and by his ſaid letters patent did grant unto the ſaid burgeſſes, their heirs and aſſigns, being *Engliſh-men*, common of paſture for all manner of cattle, at all times in the year, in the common paſture of the town and foreſt of *Lleweney*; and that the burgeſſes aforeſaid, and their heirs and aſſigns, ſhould be free and acquitted, in all his dominions and territories in *England* and *Ireland*, ſoc, ſac, toll, and them, laſtage, ſtallage, payage, pannage, pontage, murage, and other cuſtoms whatſoever. And the aforeſaid queen *Elizabeth*, by her ſaid letters patent, did ordain, conſtitute, grant, and confirm, that the town and borough of *Denbigh* may extend, on every ſide, one mile and a half, according to the common acceptations of that place, from the high croſs ſtanding in the market-place of the ſaid town; and that the ſaid town and borough of itſelf, and the burgeſſes of the ſaid borough, now and hereafter in being, be, and ſhall be for ever hereafter, one body corporate and politick, in things, fact, and name, by the name of "The ALDERMEN, BAILIFFS, and BURGESSES of the borough of *Denbigh*;" and it is alſo ordained, that there be a common ſeal for tranſacting of any cauſes or buſineſſes; and alſo ordained, that there be two aldermen, two bailiffs, and two coroners, and twenty-five of the better ſort and beſt reputed of the burgeſſes, to be capital burgeſſes and counſellors of the ſaid borough.

"THE aldermen and bailiffs are elected and nominated upon *Michaelmas-day*, yearly. There are two other officers, called ſerjeants at mace (or mace-bearers) for the execution of proceſſes and mandates iſſuing out of the court of the ſaid borough; they are appointed by the bailiffs of the ſaid borough for the time being.

"THERE

"THERE is alſo a recorder of the ſaid borough, who is appointed by the aldermen, bailiffs, and capital burgeſſes.

"CONSTABLES, leavelookers, and other inferior officers, are likewiſe appointed by the aldermen, bailiffs, and capital burgeſſes.

"THERE is a council chamber, or guild, within the ſaid borough, for the purpoſe of holding and ſitting courts of convocation, before the aldermen, bailiffs, and capital burgeſſes.

"THERE is a court of record, to be held every other *Friday* through the year, before the bailiffs of the ſaid borough, or one of them; and in that court, by complaint made in it, they may hold all and all manner of pleas, actions, ſuits, demands of all ſorts of tranſgreſſions *vi et armis*, or otherwiſe; and alſo all and all manner of debts, accompts, bargains, frauds, detaining of deeds, writings, muniments, and taking and detaining of beaſts and cattle, or goods; and all contracts whatſoever, ariſing within the ſaid borough; and that ſuch pleas, ſuits, and actions, be heard and terminated before the bailiffs, or one of them.

"THE aldermen are juſtices, and hold quarter ſeſſions, in the ſame manner as county ſeſſions are held by ſtatute, to hear and determine cauſes; but not to proceed in caſe of death, or loſs of life or limb.

"No country juſtice to intermeddle with any matters or things whatſoever, appertaining to the office of juſtice of the peace, which ſhall ariſe or happen within the borough.

"RESIANT burgeſſes are to ſerve upon jury at the ſeſſions.

"THE aldermen and bailiffs are commiſſioners of array.

"THE reſiant burgeſſes are voters for a member for the borough."

I CANNOT but record the virtue of thoſe of the year 1572, who

had the courage to withſtand the inſinuations, the promiſes, and the threats, of as unprincipled a lord as this kingdom was ever afflicted with; who had power to inflict, and will to execute, any vengeance that oppoſition to his arbitrary inclinations might excite. In that year it was his pleaſure that one *Henry Dynne* ſhould repreſent this borough in parlement; the burgeſſes were refractory, and choſe another perſon; which gave riſe to the following letter, which I print, as a *ſans pareille*.

A L^re ſent from the earle of *Leiceſter* to the bayliffe, aldermen, and burgeſſes, greatlie blaminge them for making choiſe of the burges of the parliament without his lordſhip's conſente, and commanding them to allter their electione, and to choſe *Henrie Dynne*.

I HAVE bene latlie advertiſed how ſmall conſideration youe have had of the L^re I wrote unto you, for the nomynaſion of yor burgeſs, whereat as I cannot but greatlie mervayle (in reſpect I am yor L. and you my Tenaunts, as alſo the manie good tournes and comodities wch I have bene allwayes willinge to procure youe, for the benefitte of yor whole ſtate) ſo do I take the ſame in ſo ——, and vill yte ſo unthankfullie, as yf youe do not uppon receite hereof preſentlie revoke the ſame, and appointe ſuche one as I ſhall nominate, namelie, *Henrie Dynne*, be ye well aſſured never to loke for any ffrienſhipe or favo^r at my hande, in any yor affayres herafter; not for any great accompt I make of the thinge, but for that I would not it ſhou'd be thought that I have ſo ſmall regard borne me at yor hands, who are bounden to owe (as yor L.) thus much dutie as to know myne advice and

 pleaſure;

pleaſure; that will haplie be aleadged, that yor choice was made before the receipt of my L^res (in relie I would litle have thoughte that youe would have bene ſo forgetfull, or rather careleſſe of me, as before yor elecion not to make me privie therto, or at the leaſt to have ſome deſire of myne adviſe therein (havinge tyme ynoughe ſo to do) but as you have of yor ſelfes thus raſhlie proceded herein, without myne aſſent, ſoe have I thought good to ſignifie unto youe, that I mean not to take it in any wiſe at yor hands, and therefore wyſh you more adviſedlie to conſider hereof, and to deale with me as maye continue my fav^r towards you, otherwiſe loke for no fav^r at my hands: and ſo fare ye well. From the Court, this laſt day of *Aprill*, 1572.

R. LEYCESTER.

THIS doughty letter had no effect: the burgeſſes adhered to their own choice, and *Richard Candiſhe*, gent. ſtands as member for *Denbigh* in that year *. *Leiceſter* did but copy his miſtreſs in his contempt of privelege of parlements: *Elizabeth* thought them the mere inſtruments of giving ſanction to her will: for if they once preſumed to oppoſe it, ſhe without ceremony informed them of her diſpleaſure. *Peter Wentworth*, for the ſimple propoſition, 'that a member of parlement might, without controlment of his 'perſon, or danger of the laws, by bill or ſpeech, utter any of the 'griefs of this commonwealth whatſoever, touching the ſervice of 'GOD, the ſafety of the prince, and this noble realm,' was ſent to the tower; and to the petition of the houſe for his releaſe, an anſwer was returned, that it *was very unfit for her majeſty to give*

* *Willis Notitiæ Parliam.* iii. 98.

 any

any account of her actions. Her prerogative was the rule of government: the great council was expreſsly forbidden to meddle in matters of ſtate, or in cauſes eccleſiaſtical *: and this was the GOLDEN REIGN of ELIZABETH!

FROM *Denbigh* I went to the hoſpitable houſe of *Gwaenynog*, about two miles diſtant, fronted by the moſt majeſtic oaks in our principality. The fine wooded dingles belonging to the demeſne are extremely well worth viſiting: they are moſt judiciouſly cut into walks by the owner, *John Myddelton*, eſq; and afford as beautiful ſcenery in their kind, as any we have to boaſt. *Moel Vamma* ſuperbly terminates one view; and the ruins of *Denbigh Caſtle* burſt awfully at the termination of the concluding path.

IN rummaging over the family papers of this houſe, I met with an anecdote of it, too ſingular to be ſuppreſſed. It will prove at leſt, that private morals, and reſpect to the laws, were in that diſtant period but in a very low ſtate; for no notice ſeems to have been taken of ſo atrocious an offence. The criminal enjoyed the favor of the crown, in common with others its peaceful ſubjects.

David Myddelton, who is ſtyled receiver of *Denbigh* in the nineteenth of *Edward* IV. and *Valectus Coronæ D^ni Regis*, in the ſecond of *Richard* III. made his addreſſes to *Elyn*, daughter of Sir *John Done*, of *Utkinton*, in *Cheſhire*, and gained the lady's affections; but the parents preferred their relation, *Richard Done*, of *Croton*. The marriage was accordingly celebrated; which *David* having notice of, watched the groom leading his bride out of church,

* *Drake's Parliam. Hiſt.* iv. 396.

killed

killed him on the ſpot, and then carried away his miſtreſs, and married her the ſame day; ſo that ſhe was a maid, widow, and wife twice, in one day. From *Roger*, the eldeſt ſon of the match, deſcended the *Myddeltons* of this place.

I MENTION *Thomas Myddelton*, another of his progeny, only to prove, that the cuſtom of the *Iriſh* howl, or *Scotch Coranich*, was in uſe among us; for we are told he was buried *cum magno dolore et clamore cognatorum et propinquorum omnium.*

HAVING made *Gwaenynog* my head quarters for this neighborhood, I one day viſited from thence *Henllan*, the pariſh church of theſe parts; remarkable for the ſchiſm between church and ſteeple: the firſt having retreated into the bottom, the laſt maintains its ſtation on the top of the hill. The church is covered with ſhingles; a ſpecies of roof almoſt obſolete. *St. Sadwrn*, or *St. Saturnus*, cotemporary to *St. Wenefrede*, has it under his protection. Here was interred Sir *Peter Mutton*, knight, deſcended from *Richard Mutton*, of *Rhuddlan*, and *Elen*, daughter to *John (Aer Hên) Conway*, of *Bodrhyddan.* Sir *Peter*, as his epitaph informs us, was chief juſtice of *North Wales*, a maſter in chancery, prothonatory, and clerk of the crown. He died *November* the 4th, 1637. He had the honor of repreſenting the borough of *Caernarvon*; and once occaſioned much diverſion to the houſe, by aſſerting, in one of his ſpeeches, " that he remembered fourteen years *before* he was born, &c. &c." But he was a good judge, made a fair fortune, and by marriage acquired the eſtate of *Llanerch*, which paſſed with his daughter to *Robert Davies*, of *Gwyſaney*, eſq; anceſtor of the preſent owner.

NOT far from *Henllan* church, in the pariſh of *Llan-nefydd*, on the

the bank of the brook *Meirchion*, are the remains of a ſeat of *Mereddydd ap Meirchion*, or *Merach y Meirch*, lord of *Iſdulas*. Part is now ſtanding, particularly the chapel, which ſerves for a farm-houſe; but ſome very extenſive foundations ſhew its former importance.

From hence, after a ride of a few miles, I reached *Dyffryn Alled*, or the vale of the river *Alled*, a very narrow tract, bounded by high hills, and of late ornamented by the magnificent ſeat built by Mrs. *Meyric*. At the head of the valley ſtand the village and church of *Llanſannan*, dedicated to *St. Sannan*, confeſſor and hermit; deſcended (for our very ſaints boaſt of their pedegree) from antient parentage, near the territory of the father of *St. Wenefrede*, with whom he maintained ſtrict friendſhip. Their remains were both enterred at *Gwytherin*; to which place, though unworthy, I reſolved on an immediate pilgrimage.

In my way, I deſcended a very ſteep wooded dell, in the townſhip of *Penared*, to viſit the gloomy cataract of *Llyn yr ogo*, where the *Alled* tumbles into a horrible black cavern, overſhaded by oaks. Somewhat higher up is another, expoſed to full day, falling from a vaſt height, and dividing the naked glen. *Llyn-Alled*, the ſmall lake from which the river flows, lies at a ſmall diſtance, amidſt black and heathy mountains, through which runs much of the road to *Gwytherin*.

That little village and church ſtand on a bank, at the head of a ſmall vale, near the riſe of the *Elwy*. The church is celebrated
St. Winefrede. for the honor of having firſt received the remains of *St. Winefrede*, after her ſecond death. On the deceaſe of *St. Beuno*, ſhe was warned by a voice to call on *St. Deifer* at *Bodvari*; by *St. Deifer* ſhe

ſhe was directed to go to *St. Saturnus*, at *Henllan*; and by *St. Saturnus*, to ſeek a final retreat with *St. Elerius*, at *Gwytherin*. Hither ſhe repaired, found a convent of nuns, received the veil from the ſaint, and, on the death of the abbeſs *Theonia*, ſucceeded to the high charge. *St. Wenefrede* died on the 3d of *November*, and reſted here in quiet, near the body of her predeceſſor, for the ſpace of five hundred years. By reaſon of a miracle, wrought, as was ſuppoſed, by her interceſſion, on a monk of *Shrewſbury*, the abbot determined on the tranſlation of her remains to their monaſtery. Seven holy men were deputed: the inhabitants of *Gwytherin* refuſed to part with ſuch a treaſure: viſions determined the former to perſiſt in their requeſt: and at length, on the declaration of the will of heaven, by another viſion, to the parſon of *Gwytherin*, who declared to his flock the impiety of farther reſiſtance, the reliques were delivered up, and carried with triumph to their place of deſtination *. The prior at this time was *Robert*. Mr. *William Mytton* † calls him *Pennant*. If he was of the neighborhood of *Holywell*, I do not wonder he was ſo anxious about the remains of his countrywoman, which he knew could not fail enriching his houſe, by virtue of the miracle-craft ſo frequent in that age.

HER REMAINS TRANSLATED.

IN the church is ſhewn the box in which her reliques were kept, before their removal to *Shrewſbury*. Here is alſo an antient graveſtone, with a flowery croſs and *chalice* (the laſt denoting the

* This, and much more, may be ſeen in the Life of *St. Winefrede*, pp. 88, &c.

† Antiquities of *Shropſhire*, folio MS.

prieſtly

prieſtly profeſſion of the deceaſed) with *Hic jacet Llowarch Mab Cadell*, inſcribed on the croſs.

The Saint's Chapel, *Capell Gwenfrewi*, is now totally deſtroyed: it ſtood on the ſouth ſide of the church; but nothing remains, except ſome ſlight ditches and foundations.

On the north ſide of the church-yard ſtand four rude upright ſtones. On one is rudely cut an inſcription, for which I refer to the ſupplemental plates.

In my return, I followed the courſe of the *Elwy*, by *Havodynos*, the ſeat of *Howel Lloyd*, eſq; by the church and village of *Llangerniew*; by *Garthewin*, the ſeat of *Robert Wynn*, eſq; commanding a moſt lovely view of a fertile little valley, bounded by hills, covered with hanging woods; and by *Llanvair Dôlhaearn*, a village and church at a ſmall diſtance above the conflux of the *Elwy* and *Alled*. In this pariſh above the *Elwy*, was one of the reſidences of *Hedd Molwynog*, deſcended from Roderic the Great, king of all *Wales*. A large moat, called *Yr Hên Llys*, marks the place: as the field, ſtyled *Maes y Bendithion*, does the ſpot where the poor received his alms *. *Molwynog* was chief of one of the fifteen tribes of *North Wales*; was cotemporary with *David ap Owen Gwynedd*; and aſſiſted that prince to carry fire and ſword through *England*, even to the walls of *Coventry*. A deſcendant of his third ſon, *Gwrgi*, peopled *North Wales* with *Llwyds*; for *Bleyddyn*, the ſon of *Bleyddyn Vychan*, aſſuming the addition of *Llwyd*, or the *Grey*, founded the houſe of *Havodynos*. Among his good deeds muſt be told, that to him is owing the ſtone bridge at *Llanſanan*.

Yr Hen Llys.

* *Llwyd's Itin.* i. 14. MS.

I HOPE

I HOPE my countrymen will not grow indignant, when I expreſs my fears, that in very early times we were as fierce and ſavage as the reſt of *Europe*: and they will bear this the better, when they reflect, that they keep pace with it in civilization, and in the progreſs of every fine art. We cannot deny but that we were, to the exceſs,

Jealous in honor, ſudden and quick in quarrel.

RUDE TIMES.

Two gentlemen of this houſe exemplify the aſſertion. *Meiric ap Bleyddyn*, reſentful of the injuries which he and his tenants received from the *Engliſh* judges and officers, ſlew one of the firſt, and hanged ſeveral of the latter on the oaks of his woods; by which he forfeited to the crown the lands, ſtill known in theſe parts by the name of *Têr Meiric Llwyd*, or the eſtate of *Meiric Llwyd* *. As to his perſon, he ſecured it within the ſanctuary at *Hulſton* †; and marrying, founded in that neighborhood the houſe of *Llwyn y Maen*.

Bleyddyn Vychan, another of this race, fell out with his tenants, and in a fit of fury chaſed them from his eſtate, and turned it into a foreſt ‡; a pretty picture of the manners of the times! The place lies in the pariſh of *Llanſanan*, and bears the name of *Foreſt* to this day.

RETURNED to *Gwaenynog*, and paſſing beneath *Denbigh Caſtle*, viſit *Llanrhaider*, a village in the middle of the vale, remarkable for an eaſt window of good and very entire painted glaſs, ex-

* *Llwyd's Itin.* i. 16.
† *My Welſh Tour*, i. 237.
‡ *Llwyd's Itin.* i. 15.

preſſing a favorite ſubject of the time, the root of *Jeſſe*. The patriarch is repreſented ſprawling at the bottom, with a genealogical tree iſſuing out of him, containing all the kings of *Iſrael* and *Juda*, up to our SAVIOUR. The branches around the kings are in very beautiful foliage: at the top is a roſe of *Lancaſter*, and another with an eye in glory within it: the window being done in 1533, after the acceſſion of that houſe. Here, in a vaſt monument of *Maurice Jones*, of *Llanrhaider*, eſq; may be ſeen

Eternal buckle take in *Parian* ſtone.

His figure is lying down, leaning on his arm, in his gown, with his wig in excellent curl, and ſurrounded by weeping *genii*, and much funebrial abſurdity.

IN the church-yard is a common altar-tomb of a gentleman, who choſe to build his fame on the long ſeries of anceſtors which diſtinguiſhed his from vulgar clay. It tells us, that

HEARE LYETH TE BODY OF
JOHN, AP ROBERT, OF PORTH, AP
DAVID, AP GRIFFITH, AP DAVID
VAUCHAN. AP BLETHYN, AP
GRIFFITH, AP MEREDITH,
AP JERWORTH, AP ILEWELYN,
AP JERORH, AP HEILIN, AP
COWRYD, AP CADVAN, AP
ALAWGWA, AP CADELL, TE
KING OF POWYS, WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE TE
XX DAY OF MARCH, IN TE
YEAR OF OUR LORD GOD
1642, AND OF
HIS AGE XCV.

On an eminence to the north-weſt of the church, called *Cader Gwladus*, or *Gwladus's* * *Chair*, is an extremely beautiful view of the vale between *Denbigh* and *Ruthin*, and the whole breadth chequered with wood, meadows, and corn fields; and almoſt the whole range of the eaſtern limits ſoaring far above it. *Denbigh Caſtle* from hence ſhews itſelf to great advantage, with its walls and towers extending along its precipitous baſe. FINE VIEW.

At the foot of this riſing is *Fynnon Ddyfnog*, a fine ſpring, dedicated to *St. Ddyfnog*, one of our long pedegreed ſaints; formerly much reſorted to by votaries. The fountain is incloſed in an angular wall, decorated with ſmall human figures; and before is the well for the uſe of the pious bathers.

Near this are ſome comfortable alms-houſes for eight widows, founded by Mrs. *Jones*, of *Llanrhaider* (a *Bagot*) in 1729: and each has her garden, and two ſhillings a week.

Here the dioceſe of *Bangor* encroaches on that of *St. Aſaph*, and takes out of it the beautiful pariſh of *Llanrhaider*, and all the upper end of the vale.

On the road to *Ruthin*, on an eſtate of Sir *William Bagot*, are to be ſeen ſome very fine cheſnut trees; one of which is near twenty-four feet in circumference. The reader need not be told, that this ſpecies of trees is not a native of *Great Britain*, nor even of *Europe*. We are indebted for it to the *Romans*, who probably firſt planted it in *Kent*, where it has been ſo fully naturalized, as to form, in certain tracts, great woods; in other parts of the kingdom, it every where appears cultivated; as ſparingly as it CHESNUT TREES.

* A common *Welſh* name.

might have been originally in *Italy*, after it had been brought from *Lydia*, its native place *.

RUTHIN. REACH *Ruthin*, and enter under *Porth y Dwr*, its only remaining gate. The town is pleaſantly ſeated, on the eaſy ſlope and

CASTLE. ſummit of a riſing ground. The caſtle ſtood on the ſouth ſide, and in part ſunk beneath the earth: its poor remains impend over the fall of land fronting the weſt, where a fragment or two of a tower are ſtill to be ſeen, mixed with the native rock, which in parts ſerved as a facing to the fortreſs, whoſe lower part was formed out of it; a very deep foſs, hewen out of the live ſtone, with a portal at each end, divides it breadthways. Honeſt *Churchyard*, with great truth and ſimplicity, thus deſcribes the work:

This caſtle ſtands on rocke much like red bricke,
The dykes are cut with toole throughe ſtonie cragge;
The towers are hye, the walles are large and thicke,
The worke itſelf would ſhake a ſubject's bagge.

A DRAWING I diſcovered in the *Britiſh Muſeum*, ſhews that it ſoared high above the ground, and that its numerous towers well merited the poet's praiſe.

THE views from the ſummit of the ruins, are very well worthy of the traveller's attention. If he is fond of a more aerial one, I would by all means have him aſcend the heights of *Bwlch pen y Barras*, from whence is a full proſpect of our boaſted vale, and the remote hills of our *Alpine* tract.

* *Sardibus* eæ provenere primum. Ideo apud *Græcos*, *Sardianos balanos* appellant. *Plin. Hiſt. Nat.* lib. xv. c. 23.

THE

THE *Welſh* name of the fortreſs is *Caſtell Côch yn Gwernvor* *. Poſſibly our countrymen had here a ſtrong-hold before the time of *Edward* I. who built the caſtle whoſe ruins we ſurvey †, and beſtowed it, in 1281, with the cantred of *Dyffryn Clwyd*, on *Reginald de Grey*; for which he did homage, at *Cheſter*, to *Edward* of *Caernarvon*, then prince of *Wales*. The king added at the ſame time the townſhips of *Maesmynnan*, *Pembedw*, and *Blowite*, as dependencies on the caſtle; and I ought to add the land of *Wenchal de Lacy*. Out of this antient cantred was formed the preſent lordſhip of *Ruthin*, which comprehends ſeveral pariſhes. It remained in the family of the *Greys* till the time of *Richard* earl of *Kent*, who having diſſipated his fortune by gaming, ſold it to *Henry* VII. Queen *Elizabeth* beſtowed it on *Ambroſe Dudley* earl of *Warwick*: and it is now in poſſeſſion of *Richard Myddelton*, eſq; of *Chirk Caſtle*. I muſt obſerve, this lordſhip was directed by *Edward* the Second, to contribute two hundred foot ſoldiers for his *Scottiſh* expedition, in 1309; but in 1325, only one man at arms and thirty footmen were required ‡.

THE inhabitants, united with thoſe of *Denbigh* and *Holt*, ſend a repreſentative to parlement.

THE town of *Ruthin* was burnt by *Owen Glendwr*, on *September* the 20th, 1400. He took the opportunity of ſurprizing it during the fair, enriched his followers with the plunder, and then retired to his faſtneſſes among the hills. BURNT BY GLENDWR.

IN the laſt century, the caſtle was garriſoned by the loyaliſts,

* *Llwyd's Itin.* MS. iii. 61.

† *Rotulæ Walliæ*, 66.

‡ *Rymer*, iii. 157. iv. 137

and

and ſuſtained, in 1646, a ſiege, from *February* to the middle of *April*; when it ſurrendered, with two months proviſions, to general *Mytton*, who received the thanks of the houſe for his ſervices; the commons ordered Mr. *Fogge*, his chaplain, fifty pounds for bringing the news, and confirmed the general's appointment of lieutenant-colonel *Maſon* to the government of the new conqueſt †. The fortreſs was afterwards demoliſhed by an order of the houſe.

CASTLE TAKEN BY MYTTON.

CHURCH.

THE church is large, yet only a chapel to *Llanruth*. The roof prettily divided into ſmall ſquares, ornamented with ſculpture, and marked with the names of the workmen. The only monument of any note, is that of Doctor *Gabriel Goodman*, dean of *Weſtminſter* in the time of queen *Elizabeth*, whoſe figure is repreſented by a buſt. This illuſtrious divine was a native of *Ruthin*, and was greatly diſtinguiſhed by his various merit. As a churchman, he acquired great fame by his tranſlation of the epiſtle to the *Corinthians*, being aſſiſtant in the verſion of the bible into *Engliſh*: as a philanthropiſt, his foundation of a hoſpital for twelve poor people, and a warden (who is the clergyman of the place) perpetuates his benevolent turn: and his affection to learned men is evident, not only by his eſtabliſhing here a free ſchool for this pariſh, and that of *Llan-Elidan*, with a ſtipend to the maſter of ſixty pounds a year; but by his being the patron of the great *Cambden* *, whom he enabled to take thoſe travels, which produced the fineſt collection of provincial antiquities ever extant.

† *Drake*'s Parlement. Hiſt. xiv. 355.

* *Cambden Middleſex*, i. 385.

THE

THE church was originally conventual, and belonged to a houſe of *Bonhommes* *, a ſpecies of *Auguſtins*, introduced into *England* in 1283: but the time of their continuance here could be but very ſhort; for, in 1310, *John*, ſon of *Reginald de Grey*, made it collegiate, and eſtabliſhed ſeven regular prieſts, with an endowment of two hundred and five acres of land, in *Roſmeryon* and *Rue*, beſides other lands, and woods, a mill, paſture for twenty-three cows and a bull; and *pannage*, or the free keeping of ſixty hogs in the woods of the lordſhip †. For theſe, and ſeveral other good things, the ſaid prieſts were for ever to celebrate daily a ſolemn maſs, for the ſouls of *Edward* I. queen *Eleanor*, *Reginald de Grey* and *Matilda* his wife, the founder and his wife, all their friends and relations, and of all the benefactors to this church †.

John de Grey was poſſibly buried here; and his might be the tomb, which *Churchyard* calls that of an earl of *Kent*; which ſtood in the chancel, and in his days was placed on the right ſide of the choir.

THE apartments of the prieſts were connected to the church by a cloiſter; part of which is built up, and ſerves as the manſion of the warden. When *John de Grey* undertook this work, he obtained the conſent of Sir *Hugh*, then rector of *Llanruth*; to whom he allows this to have been ſubordinate, by cuſtom as well as right ‡.

IN 1583, here were left in charge four incumbents, with penſions from ſix pounds to one pound ſix ſhillings and eight-

* *Leland Itin.* iii. 135.

† *Dugdale's Monaſt.* iii. pars ii. 57.

‡ The ſame.

pence

pence each *. The lands were granted by *Edward* VI. to *William Winlove* and *Richard Fyld* †.

Ruthin, and ſeveral other pariſhes, which formerly compoſed the cantref of *Dyffryn Clwyd*, form a deanery in the dioceſe of *Bangor*, bearing the antient name.

Leland mentions a houſe of white friers ‡ in this town, but gives no particulars. It poſſibly ſtood in the ſtreet, to this day called *Prior's-Street*.

JAIL. THE new jail does much honor to the architect, Mr. *Joſeph Turner*; the contrivance comprehending all the requiſites of theſe ſeats of miſery, ſecurity, cleaneſs, and health. The debtors are ſeparated from the criminals by a very lofty wall, dividing their reſpective yards, which are airy and ſpacious, and are ſupplied with baths. The condemned cells are on a level with the ground; are dry, light, and ſtrong; an excellent contraſt to the ſad dungeons of antient priſons.

FROM *Ruthin* I viſited the neat little mother church of *Llanruth*, dedicated to *St. Meugan*, a great aſtrologer, and phyſician to king *Vortigern*. In it is the monument of *John Thelwall*, eſq; of *Bathavarn*, and his wife, kneeling at an altar: behind him are ten ſons §; behind her, four daughters. Of the ſons, Sir *Bevis* is armed; the reſt are in gowns; and three carry in their hands a ſkull, to denote their early departure. The other ſeven lived

* *Willis Abbies*, ii. 311.

† *Tanner*, 708.

‡ *Itin.* v. 45.

§ Several of their portraits are preſerved at *Bathavarn*, the ſeat of the reverend Mr. *Carter*.

to advanced life, and flouriſhed cotemporaries in the ſeveral profeſſions they had embraced.

John, the eldeſt, died aged 97, and left a poſterity, amounting to between two hundred and forty and two hundred and ſixty.

Sir *Eubule* became maſter of *Jeſus College, Oxford.* I will not tire the reader with the whole family hiſtory; but muſt not omit *Ambroſe*, the ninth ſon, who began life with being ſervant to Sir *Francis Bacon*; and ſo great a favorite was he, that in order to reward him, Sir *Francis* moved his royal maſter to knight all the maſters in chancery; for which *Ambroſe* was to have a gratuity of one hundred pounds a man. The affair was done, and the money paid, except by his brother, Sir *Eubule*, then one of the maſters, to whom he remitted the fees.

There is in the church a monumental buſt of *Ambroſe*, admirably cut: his hair ſhort; beard, peaked; and ruff, flat.

This family came from *Thelwall*, in *Cheſhire*, and took their name from the place. The founder was a follower of *Reginald de Grey*, and made a ſettlement in theſe parts. Notwithſtanding the numerous offspring of the family, and the other branches, only two remain of the name, my kinſman, *Edward Thelwall*, eſq; of *Llanbeder*, a moſt beautiful ſituation, high on the ſide of the hills, two miles eaſt of *Ruthin*; and *Simon Thelwall*, eſq; of *Blaen-yâl.*

From *Llanruth* the vale grows very narrow, and almoſt cloſes with the pariſh of *Llanvair.* If I place the extremity at *Pont Newydd*, there cannot be a more beautiful finiſhing; where the bridge, near the junction of the *Clwyd* and the *Heſpin*; and a lofty hill, with its back cloathed with hanging woods, terminate the view.

Go over part of *Coed Marchan*, a large naked common, noted for a quarry of coarſe red and white marble. Deſcend into the narrow vale of *Nant-clwyd*; and for ſome time ride over dreary commons. On one is a ſmall encampment, with a ſingle foſs, called *Caer Senial*. Near this place, enter

MEIREONEDDSHIRE.

And, within ſight of the former, viſit *Caer Drewyn*, another poſt, in full view of the beautiful vales of *Glyn-dwrdwyc* and *Edernion*, watered by the *Dee*. It lies on the ſteep ſlope of a hill; is of a
BRITISH POST. circular form, and about half a mile in circumference; and the defence conſiſts of a ſingle wall, moſtly in ruins; yet in ſome parts the facings are ſtill apparent: in the thickneſs of the walls are evident remains of apartments. It had two entrances. Near the north-eaſtern is an oblong ſquare, added to the main works; and as the ground there is rather flat, it is ſtrengthened with a great ditch, and a wall: within are the foundations of rude ſtone buildings; one of which is circular, and ſeveral yards in diameter: the ditch is carried much farther than the wall; and ſeems part of an unfiniſhed addition to the whole. It is conjectured, that *Owen Gwynedd* occupied this poſt, while *Henry* II. lay encamped on the *Berwyn* hills, on the other ſide of the vale. *Owen Glyndwr* is ſaid alſo to have made uſe of this faſtneſs, in his occaſional retreats.

NOT far from hence, near *Gwyddelwern*, is a place called *Saith Marchog*, from the circumſtance of *Owen* having there ſurprized *Reginald de Grey*, and *ſeven* knights *(Saith Marchog)* in his train *.

* Mr. *Thomas's* MSS.

This poſt or faſtneſs of *Caer Drewyn*, is but one of the chain which begins at *Diſerth*, and is continued along the *Clwydian* hills into the mountains of *Yale*; for on the laſt are others; one on a *Moel y Gaer*; and another on *Moel Forfydd*; and *Bryn Eglwys* church ſeems to have been placed in the area of a third. Theſe were the temporary retreats of the inhabitants in time of war, or ſudden invaſions: here they placed their women, their children, and cattle, under ſtrong garriſon; or perhaps a whole clan or nation might withdraw into them, till the retreat of the enemy, who could never ſubſiſt long in a country, where all the proviſions were in this manner ſecured. It is alſo equally certain, that the inhabitants themſelves could not remain here for any long ſpace, as moſt of theſe faſtneſſes are deſtitute of water *.

Descend, and finding the uſual ford of the *Dee* to *Corwen* impaſſable, get again into the *Ruthin* road, on a common marked with Tumuli, the frequent ſigns of ſlaughter. Theſe appear to me to have been the graves of the ſlain in ſome ſkirmiſh which the *Welſh* had with the *Engliſh*, about the year 1255; when *Llewelyn ap Gryffyd*, collecting all his power, recovered the inland part of *North Wales*, and all *Merioneddſhire*, from the uſurpation of *Henry* III. †

Pass near the houſe of *Rûg*. This place is memorable for the treacherous ſurprizal of *Gryffyd ap Conan*, king of *Wales*, ſoon after his victory at *Carno*, in the year 1077; having been enveigled hither by the treaſon of one *Muriawn Goch*. The mount (in all likelihood originally *Roman*) on which the caſtelet ſtood, is ſtill

* *Tour in Wales*, i. 414. † *Powel*, 320.

to be ſeen in the garden. Notwithſtanding his eminent ſucceſs, he fell into a long captivity, being here betrayed into the hands of *Hugh Lupus* earl of *Cheſter*, and *Hugh Beleſme* earl of *Shrewſbury*, and was conveyed to the caſtle of *Cheſter*, where he endured a twelve years impriſonment. At length he was releaſed by the bravery of a young man of theſe parts, *Kynwric Hîr*; who, coming to *Cheſter* under pretence of buying neceſſaries, took an opportunity, while the keepers were a feaſting, to carry away his prince, loaden with irons, on his back, to a place of ſecurity *.

In after-times, this place became the property of *Owen Brogyntyn*, natural ſon of *Madog ap Mereddydd*, a prince of *Powys*. Such was the merit of *Brogyntyn*, that he ſhared his father's inheritance equal with his legitimate brethren. His dagger, curiouſly wrought, is, I am told, ſtill preſerved in the houſe. By the marriage of *Margaret Wenn*, daughter and heireſs of *Jevan ap Howel*, a deſcendant of *Brogyntyn*, with *Pyers Saluſbury*, of *Bachymbyd* †, were derived the *Saluſburies* of *Rûg*; a name exiſting in the male line till the preſent century.

I may mention here, as a ſequel to the life of *Owen Glyndwr*, that on his attainder, *Henry* IV. ſold the lordſhip of *Glyndwrdwy* to *Robert Saluſbury* ‡, of *Rûg*.

Cross the *Dee*, on a very handſome bridge of ſix arches, from which the river ſhews itſelf to vaſt advantage, above and below, in form of two extenſive channels, bordered by trees, and fertilizing a verdant tract of meadow.

Reach *Corwen*, whoſe church and ſmall town, ſeated beneath a

* *Life of Gr. ap Conan. Sebright* MSS.

† *Saluſbury Pedegree*, 14.

‡ *Powel*, 214.

vaſt

vaſt rock at the foot of the *Berwyn* hills, form a pictureſque point of view, from various parts of the preceding ride.

Corwen is celebrated for being the great rendezvous of the *Welſh* forces under *Owen Gwynedd* *, who from hence put a ſtop to the invaſion of *Henry* II. in the year 1165. The place of encampment is marked, as I am told, by a rampart of earth, above the church ſouthward; and by the marks of the ſites of abundance of tents from thence to the village of *Cynwyd*.

The church is built in form of a croſs. Within is the tomb of one of its vicars, *Jorwerth Sulien*. His figure, holding a chalice in his hand, is repreſented as low as his breaſt, over which the inſcription, "*Hic jacet Jorwerth Sulien, Vicarius de Corvaen, ora pro eo,*" is continued. The whole is a very elegant piece of engraving, upon the coffin-lid, I fear not old enough to make it the tomb of *St. Julien*, archbiſhop of *St. David*; the godlieſt man and greateſt clerke in all *Wales* †: yet that ſaint has his well here, and is patron of the church.

On the ſouth ſide of the church wall is cut a very rude croſs, which is ſhewn to ſtrangers as the ſword of *Owen Glyndwr*. A moſt ſingular croſs in the church-yard merits attention: the ſhaft is let into a flat ſtone, and that again is ſupported by four or five rude ſtones, as if the whole had been formed in imitation of, and in veneration of the ſacred *Cromlehs* of very early time.

A monument of our ſuperſtition remains in the *Carreg y Big yn y fach Newlyd*, a pointed rude ſtone, which ſtands near the porch. We are told that all attempts to build the church in any other place, were fruſtrated by the influence of certain adverſe

* Lord Littleton, iv. 99. † He died in 1089.

powers,

powers, till the founders, warned in viſion, were directed to the ſpot where this pillar ſtood.

In the church-yard is a building, founded by *William Eyton*, of *Plâs Warren*, in *Shropſhire*; who, in 1709, left by will a ſum for the ſupport of ſix widows of clergy of the county of *Merioneth* only, and for the erecting ſix houſes for them to live in. In conſequence, this building was finiſhed, and lands, to the preſent amount of ſixty pounds a year, bought, which is equally divided among the widows reſident here.

Leave *Corwen*, and return as far as the bridge on the way I came. The vaſt *Berwyn* mountains are the eaſtern boundary of this beautiful vale. Their higheſt tops are *Cader Fronwen*, or *The White Breaſt*, and *Cader Ferwyn*. On the firſt is a great heap of ſtones, brought from ſome diſtant part, with great toil, up the ſteep aſcent; and in their middle is an erect pillar. Of him, whoſe ambition climbed this height for a monument, we are left in ignorance. Under their ſummit is ſaid to run an artificial

Fford Helen. road, called *Ffordd Helen*, or *Helen's Way*; a lady, of whoſe labors I ſhall ſoon have occaſion to ſpeak further.

On theſe hills, particularly about *Cader Fronwen*, is found the

Cloud Berries. *Rubus Chamæmorus*, *Cloud Berries*, or *Knot Berries*. *Llwyd* * ſays, that the *Welſh* call it *Mwyar Berwyn*, *Mora Montis Berwyn*. They are frequently uſed for the making of tarts; and the *Swedes* and *Norwegians* reckon the berries to be excellent antiſcorbutics, and preſerve great quantities in autumn, to make tarts. The *Laplanders* bruiſe and eat them as a delicious food, in the milk of rein-deer; and to preſerve them through the winter, bury

* In *Camden's Br.* ii. 835.

them

them in ſnow, and at the return of ſpring, find them as freſh as when firſt gathered *. I have ſeen them in the *Highlands* of *Scotland*, brought to table as a deſert.

REACH *Cynwyd*, a ſmall village, formerly noted for the courts kept here by the great men of the neighborhood, to ſettle the boundaries of their ſeveral clames on the waſtes and commons, and to take cognizances of the encroachment; but they have been long diſcontinued, and the records deſtroyed.

VISIT from this place *Rhaider Cynwyd*, or the fall of *Cynwyd*, which finely finiſhes the end of the dingle, that extends about half a mile from the village. The water of the river *Tryſtion* burſts from the ſides of the hill, through deep and narrow chaſms, from rock to rock, which are overgrown with wood. The rude and antient ſtocks, that hang in many parts over the precipices, add much to this pictureſque ſcene; which is ſtill improved by the little mill, and its inhabitants, in this ſequeſtered bottom. WATER-FALL.

PURSUE the journey to *Bala*. Go by the little church of *Llangar*. Obſerve ſomewhat farther on the left, in a field called *Caer Bont*, a ſmall circular entrenchment, conſiſting of a foſs and rampart, with two entrances, meant probably as a guard to this paſs. My fellow-traveller, the reverend Mr. *Lloyd*, informed me, that in another tour he had aſcended a hill, above this place, called *Y Foel*, on whoſe ſummit was a circular coronet, of rude pebbly ſtones, none above three feet in height; with an entrance to the eaſt, or riſing ſun. The diameter of the circle is ten yards. Within was a circular cell, about ſix feet in diameter, ſunk a very little below the ſurface; and about a hundred yards diſtance, CAER BONT.

* *Flora Scotica*, i. 267. tab. xiii.

facing

facing this, are the reliques of a great *Carnedd*, ſurrounded by large ſtones. The whole of this formed a place of worſhip among the antient *Britons*, and probably was ſurrounded with a grove. But what I have to ſay on the ſubject of *Druidiſm*, is reſerved till I reach *Angleſea*, its principal ſeat.

Proceed to *Llandrillo*, a village with a church dedicated to *St. Trillo*. It is ſeated on the torrent *Keidio*, at the mouth of a great glen, which extends upwards of two miles, emboſomed in the *Berwyn* mountains, and leads to the noted paſs through them, called *Milter Gerrig*, into the county of *Montgomery*.

At about a mile diſtance from *Llandrillo*, I again croſſed the *Dee*, at *Pont Gilan*, a bridge of two arches, over a deep and black water. Beyond this ſpot, the valley acquires new beauties, eſpecially on the right. The valley here contracts greatly: the road runs at the foot of a brow, of a ſtupendous height, covered with venerable oaks, which have kept their ſtubborn ſtation, amidſt the rudeſt of rocks, which every now and then ſhew their grey and broken fronts, amidſt the deep verdure of the foliage of trees, which ſo ſtrangely find nutriment amongſt them. The growth of the oak, in forcing its root downward, frequently rends theſe vaſt ſtrata, whoſe fragments often appear ſcattered at the baſe, of moſt amazing ſizes. The whole ſcenery requires the pencil of a *Salvator Roſa*: and here our young artiſts would find a fit place to ſtudy the manner of that great painter of wild nature.

St. Derfel. A little beyond the extremity of this romantic part, in an opening on the right, ſtand the church and village of *Llan-Dderfel*: the firſt was dedicated to *St. Derfel Gadarn*, and was remarkable for a vaſt wooden image of the ſaint, the ſubject of

much ſuperſtition in antient times. The *Welſh* had a prophecy, that it ſhould ſet a *whole foreſt on fire*. Whether to complete it, or whether to take away from the people the cauſe of idolatry, I cannot ſay; but it was brought to *London* in the year 1538, and was uſed as part of the fuel which conſumed poor frier *Foreſt* to aſhes, in *Smithfield*, for denying the king's ſupremacy. This unhappy man was hanged in chains round his middle to a gallows, over which was placed this inſcription, alluſive to our image:

David Darvel Gutheren,
As ſayth the *Welſhman,*
Fetched outlawes out of Hell.

Now is he come with ſpere and ſheld,
In harnes to burne in *Smithfeld,*
For in *Wales* he may not dwel.

And *Foreeſt* the freer,
That obſtinate lyer,
That wylfully ſhalbe dead.

In his contumacye,
The goſpel doeth deny,
The kyng to be ſupreme heade*.

THE prophecy was fulfilled, the image burnt, and *the Foreſt* conſumed, to the great content of the lord mayor, the dukes of *Suffolk* and *Norfolk*, the lord admiral, and lord privy ſeal, and divers others of the nobility, who honored this *auto de fe* with their preſence †; but unfortunately, the frier not having the inſenſi-

* *Halle's Chr.* ccxxxiii. † *Stow's Annals*, 573.

bility of our wooden ſaint, on the touch of the flames ſhewed the natural horrors at approach of an agonizing death, and payed very little reſpect to the arguments of the pious *Latimer*, who was placed oppoſite to the ſufferer, in a pulpit, to preach him into a ſenſe of the crime of differing in opinion with his ſovereign in religious matters; for which the prelate himſelf ſuffered in a ſucceeding reign. *Foreſt* thought fit to deny that *Henry* was head of the church; and *Latimer* would force that honor upon *Mary*, who choſe to cede it to the Pope.

Opposite to this church is *Llandderfel* bridge, of four arches. At ſome diſtance from it, the vale almoſt cloſes; and at *Kalettur* finiſhes nobly with a lofty wooded eminence, above which ſoars the vaſt maſs of the *Arennig* mountains, notwithſtanding they appear immediately after to be very remote. And I here ſtop a moment, to recommend to the traveller, who does not chuſe preciſely to purſue my ſteps, to follow the courſe of the *Dee* from *Bangor*, through the delicious tract it waters from thence to *Llangollen*; to follow it through *Glyndwrdwy* to *Corwen*, and thence, through the matchleſs vale of *Edeirneon*, to this ſpot, where, for a ſmall ſpace, it paſſes through a flat, an unpleaſant contraſt to the preceding ride.

On the left lies *Rhiwaedog*, or *The Bloody Brow*, noted for a battle between *Llowarch Hên* and the *Saxons*, in which he loſt *Cynddelw*, the laſt of his numerous ſons. A ſpot not far from hence, called *Pabell Llowarch Hên*, or the tent of that monarch, is ſuppoſed to have been the place where he reſted the night after the battle, and where he finiſhed that pathetic elegy, in which he laments the loſs of all his ſons. In it he directs the laſt to de-

fend

fend the brow of that hill, indifferent to the fate of the only ſurvivor.

Cynddelw cadw dithew y Rhiu
Arr a ddêl yma heddiw
Cabcb am ũn mab nyd gwiu *.

" Cynddelw, defend thou the brow of yonder hill. Let the event of the day " be what it will: when there is but one ſon left, it is vain to be over-fond " of him."

The houſe and eſtate of *Rhiwaedog* is now owned by Mr. *Dolben*, deſcended by his mother from the *Llwyds*, the very antient poſſeſſors. *Einion ap Ithel*, of this place, a valiant anceſtor of his, articled with *John* duke of *Lancaſter*, in 1394, to attend him for a year in his expedition to *Guyen*, with one man at arms and one archer; for which the duke rewarded him with twenty marks, iſſuing out of his manor of *Halton* †.

Pass by the village and church of *Llanvawr*, and croſs the torrent *Troweryn*, beneath *Rhiwlas*, the antient ſeat of the *Prices*. In the houſe are the portraits of ſome of the family: among others, that of *William Price*, eſq; member for the county in the long parlement, but ſoon diſplaced for his adherence to the king. RHIWLAS.

Reach *Bala*, a ſmall town in the pariſh of *Llanyckil*, noted for its vaſt trade in woollen ſtockings, and its great markets every *Saturday* morning, when from two to five hundred pounds worth are ſold each day, according to the demand. Round the place, women and children are in full employ, knitting along the roads; and mixed with them *Herculean* figures appear, aſſiſting their *om-* KNITTING.

* *J. D. Rhys*'s Grammar, 103. † Mr. *Evan Evans*'s Notes.

phales in this effeminate employ. During winter the females, through love of ſociety, often aſſemble at one another's houſes to knit; ſit round a fire, and liſten to ſome old tale, or to ſome antient ſong, or the ſound of a harp; and this is called *Cymmorth Gwau*, or, the knitting aſſembly.

Much of the wool is bought at the great fairs at *Llanrwſt*, in *Denbighſhire*.

Tommén y Bala. Close to the ſouth-eaſt end of the town, is a great artificial mount, called *Tommen y Bala*, in the ſummer time uſually covered in a picturesque manner with knitters, of both ſexes, and all ages. From the ſummit is a fine view of *Llyn-tegid*, and the adjacent mountains. On the right appear the two *Arennigs*, *Vawr* and *Vach*; beyond the farther end, ſoar the lofty *Arans*, with their two heads, *Aran Mowddwy* and *Penllyn*; and beyond all, the great *Cader Idris* cloſes the view.

This mount appears to have been *Roman*, and placed here, with a caſtelet on its ſummit, to ſecure the paſs towards the ſea, and keep our mountaneers in ſubjection. The *Welſh*, in after time, took advantage of this, as well as other works of the ſame nature.

The town is of a very regular form: the principal ſtreet very ſpacious, and the leſſer fall into it at right angles. I will not deny, but that its origin might have been *Roman*.

The mounts form a chain. I have obſerved one within ſight of this, on the mountain road to *Ruthin*, which is called *Tommen y Caſtell*; *Caer Crwyni* is a ſmall entrenchment, not remote from it, overlooking the vale of *Edeirnion*; the mount in the garden of *Rûg* is another; a third, much more conſiderable, lies within

ſight

ſight of this, on the road to *Gwyddelwern*; and farther on, in the pariſh of *Bettws*, is a fourth, which goes under the uſual name of *Tommen y Caſtell*.

Bala takes its name from its vicinity to the place where a river diſcharges itſelf from a lake. *Balloch* in the *Erſe* language ſignifies the ſame. I know little of its antient hiſtory, any more than it ſeems to have been dependent on the caſtle of *Harlech*; and that, in the reign of *Edward* II. it was committed to the care of *Finian de Stanedon*, conſtable of that caſtle *; and in the time of *Edward* III. his great general, *Walter de Manni*, was rewarded with the fee-farm of *Bala* and *Harlech*, and was made ſheriff of this county for life †. I may add incidentally, that *Edward* I. gave one *Hugo de Turbervill* liberty of hunting through *Meirionithſhire* all kinds of wild beaſts ‡, while probably the ſubdued natives were only his *Chaſſeurs*.

Bala Lake, *Pimble Mere*, or *Llyn-tegid*, lies at a ſmall diſtance from the town; and is a fine expanſe of water, near four miles long, and twelve hundred yards broad in the wideſt place: the deepeſt part is oppoſite *Bryn Golen*, where it is forty-ſix yards deep, with three yards of mud; the ſhores gravelly: the boundaries are eaſy ſlopes, well cultivated, and varied with woods. In ſtormy weather, its billows run very high, and incroach greatly on the north-eaſt end, where, within memory of man, numbers of acres have been loſt. It riſes ſometimes nine feet, and rains and LAKE.

* *Scbright MSS.* † *Dugdale Baron.* ii. 149.

‡ *Rotulæ Walliæ*, 98. In p. 97 is an order for him to have ſix ſtags out of the foreſt of *Meirionith*.

winds

winds jointly contribute to make it overflow the fair vale of *Edeirnion*.

FISH. ITS fiſh are, pike, perch, trout, a few roach, and abundance of eels; and ſhoals of that *Alpine* fiſh, the *Gwyniaid*, which ſpawn in *December*, and are taken in great numbers in ſpring, or ſummer. Pike have been caught here of twenty-five pounds weight, a trout of twenty-two, a perch of ten, and a gwyniaid of five. Sir *Watkin Williams Wynn* clames the whole fiſhery of this noble lake. It had been the property of the abby of *Baſingwerk*; for *Owen de Brogynton* made a grant to GOD, *St. Mary*, and the monks of that houſe, of "a certain water in *Penthlinn*, called *Thlintegit*, or "*Pembelmere*, and all the paſture of the ſaid land of *Penthlinn*. This was witneſſed by *Reiner* (who was biſhop of *St. Aſaph* from 1185 to 1224) and by *Ithail*, *Owen*'s chaplain *.

THE waters are diſcharged under *Pont Mwnwgl y Llyn*, a bridge of three arches. They ſeem inconſiderable in reſpect to the ſize of the ſtreams which feed the lake; for the *Dee* does not make in dry ſeaſons the figure I expected. Salmon come in plenty to this place; but neither do they treſpaſs into the lake, and the gwyniaids very rarely into the river. Report ſays, that the *Dee* paſſes through the lake from end to end, without deigning to mix its waters; as the *Rhone* was fabled to ſerve the lake of *Geneva*. But, in fact, the *Dee* does not aſſume its name, till it quits its parent.

NEAR the weſt ſide, cloſe to the bridge, and juſt oppoſite to *Tommen y Bala*, ſtood another caſtelet; not ſo high, but of a more extenſive form than that mount. It is now broke through by a

* *Sebright MSS.*

public

public road, but is very apparent on both ſides. The mount, or keep, was on the lower, immediately above the river; and the veſtiges of a wall are ſtill evident. This was ſubſervient to the ſame purpoſes as the others; for there muſt have been, from the nature of the ground, a travellable road on both ſides of the lake. This I apprehend to have been the caſtle of *Bala*, which *Llewelyn ap Jorwerth* founded in 1202 *.

THERE is no river in *England* which has been ſo much celebrated by our poets, for its ſanctity, as the *Dee*. Moſt countries had one, which they held in peculiar veneration. The *Theſſalians* paid divine honors to their *Pæneus*, on account of its beauty: the *Scythians* worſhipped their *Iſter*, on account of its ſize: the *Germans* the *Rhine*, becauſe it was the judge whether their offſpring was legitimate; for the ſpurious ſunk, the lawful floated †: and let me add to the liſt, the *Ganges*, out of whoſe waters no *Indian* of a certain ſect would willingly yield his laſt breath. Our river foretold events by the change of its channel ‡; and it often ſeemed miraculouſly to increaſe, without the uſual intervention of rains; therefore, in all probability, derived its name, not from *Ddu*, or black, becauſe its waters are not ſo, except in parts, by reaſon of the depth; nor from *Dwy*, two, becauſe it does not appear to flow from any two particular fountains; but from Duw, *divine*, by reaſon of its wondrous attributes. Our original ſtock, the *Gauls*, deified fountains, lakes, and rivers. They even had one, which in theirs (our

THE DEE, SACRED

* *Powel*, 258.

† *Cluverius Germ. Antiq.* lib. i. 185.

‡ *Girald. Camb. Itin.* c. xi.

primitive tongue) bore the ſame name, and was called (Latiniſed) into *Divona*.

Salve fons ignote ortu, ſacer, alme, perennis
Vitree, glauce, profunde, ſonore, opace.
Salve urbis GENIUS, medico potabilis hauſtu,
DIVONA *celtarum* lingua, fons addite divis *.

Giraldus, who travelled through our country in 1188, gives the firſt account of the prophetic quality of the *Dee*; and the notion was continued to many ages after his. *Spencer* introduces it among the rivers attendant on the marriage of the *Thames* and the *Medway* †:

And following *Dee*, which *Britons* long ygone
Did call DIVINE, that doth by *Cheſter* tend.

BUT *Draiton* is ſtill more particular, and adds many of its preſaging qualities, delivered down to him from the more antient times.

Again *Dee*'s holineſs began
By his contracted front and ſterner waves to ſhow,
That he had things to ſpeak that profit them to know:
A brook that was ſuppos'd much buſineſs to have ſeen,
Which had an antient bound 'twixt *Wales* and *England* been,
And noted was by both to be an ominous flood,
That changing of his fords, the future ill or good
Of either country told; of either's war or peace;
The ſickneſs or the health, the dearth or the increaſe ‡.

* *Auſonius* Claræ Urbes, lin. 29.
† Stanza 39, cant. xi. lib. iv.
‡ Song x.

WELL,

WELL, therefore, might the ſacred rivers be called URBIS GENII; and that ours was as deſerving as the beſt of them of that title, is evinced from the above. Finally, *Milton*, in the following line, beautifully alludes to the interpreters of the preſages among the *Britons*, the antient *Druids*, who dwelt upon its banks:

Nor yet where DEVA ſpreads her wizard ſtream *.

IT was long before we got clear of theſe ſuperſtitions. They were very prevalent in the time of *Gildas*, in the ſixth century, when our anceſtors ſtrongly retained the idolatry of the *Druids* among their *Chriſtian* rites: and, notwithſtanding the fulmination of many a monarch †, it kept its ground; and hydromancy ſtill remains practiſed among us; of which I ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak of more than one kind.

KERRIG Y DRUIDION.

I FOUND that I could here, with greater eaſe than from any other place, digreſs to *Kerrig y Druidion*; a pariſh a few miles to the north, in the county of *Denbigh*, noted for certain *Druidical* remains, which gave name to the place. After a dreary ride, I found myſelf diſappointed; theſe ſacred reliques having been profanely carried away, and converted into a wall. It is therefore from the annotator on *Cambden* ‡, and the drawings preſerved by him among the *Sebright* MSS. that I muſt form my deſcription.

THE largeſt was a fine ſpecimen of the *Britiſh Kiſt vaen*, or ſtone cheſt. It conſiſted of one ſtone at top, placed inclining to the north, and was, when meaſured by Mr. *Llwyd*, ten feet long, ſupported by a ſtone on each ſide about ſeven feet long, and near

* *Lycidas*. † *Edgar* and *Canute*. ‡ II. 813.

two and a half broad. Under one end was a ſtone, three feet long; at the other, one of the length of two feet. The hollow beneath was only ſeven feet long, three and a half broad, and only two and a half high; which ſufficiently ſhews, that theſe monuments had not been the cells of *Druids*; their uſes, therefore, muſt have been ſepulchral, according to the conjecture of Doctor *Borlaſe*. The antient natives of our iſle did not always burn their dead. Skeletons have been diſcovered in ſimilar *Kiſt vaens*, at full length: in ſuch as this, they might lie commodiouſly, with all the parade of arms, often buried with them. Around this, was a circle of ſtones, incloſing an area of about forty paces in diameter; and the precinct might be formed with the intent of keeping people at a reſpectable diſtance from the remains, perhaps of ſome mighty chieftain. This monument went by the name of *Karchar Kynric Rwth*; not that it ever was uſed for that purpoſe originally; but there is a tradition, that in aftertimes, a little tyrant of that name, in the neighborhood, was wont to cram thoſe who offended him, into the hollow of theſe ſtones; which might ſerve for the purpoſes of torment as well as the *little eaſe* in the tower of *London*, or the iron cages of the *Baſtille*.

THE other *Kiſt vaen* was nearly ſimilar to the firſt; but no mention is made of the circle of ſtones: probably they were taken away before Mr. *Llwyd* viſited the place.

BARON PRICE. AT *Giler*, in this pariſh, was born that upright and able judge, *Robert Price*, eſq; baron of the exchequer, and finally juſtice of the common pleas. His famous ſpeech in the houſe of commons, againſt the grant of the great *Welſh* lordſhips to the earl of *Portland*, will ever teſtify his love to his country. His ſpeedy

promotion by king *William*, do equal credit to his majeſty, and Mr. *Price*; ſince the former, howſoever grievous to him might be the oppoſition to his will, yet no conſideration could induce him to permit his ſubjects to loſe the benefit of a magiſtrate capable and honeſt, as he knew our countryman to be.

RETURN to *Bala*, and continue my journey on the ſouth ſide of the lake, a moſt beautiful ride. Paſs by *Llanyckil* church, dedicated to *St. Beuno*; and ſee, on the oppoſite ſide, *Llangower*, dedicated to *St. Gwawr*, mother of the *Cambrian* bard *Llowarch Hên*. Beneath flows *Avon Gwawr*, the only feed of the lake on that ſide.

Go by *Glan y Llyn*, an old houſe, near the water edge; which, as well as the following, had been the property of the *Vaughans*. GLAN Y LLYN.

LEAVE on the right another antient ſeat, *Caer Gai*, placed on an eminence. *Cambden* ſays, it was a caſtle, built by one *Caius*, a *Roman*; the *Britons* aſcribe it to *Gai*, foſter-brother to king *Arthur*. It probably was *Roman*, for multitudes of coins have been found in different parts of the neighborhood; and it is certain, that it had been a fortreſs to defend this paſs, for which it is well adapted, both by ſituation, and form of the hill.

I PROCEEDED about two miles farther, to viſit another, ſeated a mile from the *Dolgelleu* road, on the ſummit of a high rock, which bears the name of *Caſtell Corndochon*, the origin of which we are equally ignorant of. Two ſides of the rock are precipitous. In the front of the caſtle is cut a deep foſs: the caſtle conſiſted of an oblong tower, rounded at the extremity; and its meaſure within is forty-three feet by twenty-two. Behind that, and joined to it by a wall, are the ruins of a ſquare tower; this lies in the main CASTELL CORNDOCHON.

body of the fortreſs, whoſe form, as *Cambden* obſerves, inclines to oval. This had been very conſiderable; was built with mortar, made of gravel and ſea ſhells; and was faced with free-ſtone, ſquared, and well cut.

LLAN-UWCHLLYN. I RETURNED towards *Caer Gai*; and, not far from thence, to the village and *church* of *Llan-uwchllyn*. In the laſt is the figure of an armed man, with a conic helmet, and mail muffler round his chin and neck: on his breaſt is a wolf's head, and on his belly another; and in the intervening ſpace, three roſes. The firſt are the arms of *Ririd Vlaidd*; the others of *Kynedda Wledig*, or, *The Warlike*, a *Cumbrian* prince, whoſe ſons (after their father had been defeated by the *Saxons*, in the ſixth century) retired, and poſſeſſed themſelves of theſe parts of *Wales*: and from *Meirion*, a grandſon of his, is ſaid to be given the name of *Meirionith* to this ſhire. *Ririd* was lord of *Pen-Llyn*, which ſignifies the head of the lake, and forms one of the hundreds of *Meirionithſhire*. It had alſo its caſtle, which probably was that of *Corndochon*. Around the margin of the tomb is a mutilated inſcription, which, as far as I could diſcover, run thus: *Hic jacet Johannes ap* **** *ap Madoc ap J——eth, cujus animæ pr——etur. Deus amen. anno D^ni* MCCC. X. 88.

CLOSE by this village runs *Avon-y-Llan*, *Avon Llew*, or *Amlêw*. The laſt riſes from two ſprings, and falls into the former. Thoſe who chuſe to derive the *Dee* from its double origin, may fix on theſe: but I met with a third, at the fartheſt corner of the lake,

ARAN HILL. ariſing from the neighborhood of the lofty *Aran*, to which *Spencer* gives the honor of forming that celebrated river, I ſuppoſe after running through the lake, unmixed with the waters. The poet

makes

makes the foot of that mighty mountain the place of education of our renowned prince, *Arthur*; who, on his birth, being delivered to a fairy knight, is by him inſtantly conveyed to an antient hero,

To be upbrought in gentle thews and martial might.

It is evident that *Spencer*, who was deeply read in all the romance of his romantic days, had heard the tradition of *Caer Gai*, and its old inhabitant, *Gai*'s father, to whom he chuſes to give the more claſſical name of *Timon*; for ſo prince *Arthur* is made to name his foſter-father.

Unto old *Timon* he me brought bylive,
Old *Timon*, who in youthful years had been
In warlike feats the experteſt man alive,
And is the wiſeſt now on earth, I ween:
His dwelling is low in valley green,
Under the foot of *Rauran* moſſie hore,
From whence the river *Dee*, as ſilver clean,
His tumbling billows rolls, with gentle rore:
There all his days he train'd me up in virtuous lore *.

This honored ſtream is now known by the name of *Avon Twrch*; is a fierce mountain torrent, precipitating itſelf from the *Aran*; and croſſes a road from whence I firſt begin my journey among the *Alps* of our country, and aſcend from hence, then ſink into very deep bottoms, bounded on each ſide by fields of ſuch ſteepneſs, as to put the inhabitants to great difficulties in the cultivation. Woods, eſpecially of birch, vary the ſcene. On the right,

* *Fairy Queen*, book I. canto ix.

tower the vaſt hills of *Aran*; or rather, two heads, ariſing from one baſe.

ARRIVE at the foot of *Bwlch y Groes*, or the paſs of *The Croſs*, one of the moſt terrible in *North Wales*. The height is gained by going up an exceeding ſteep and narrow zig-zag path: the paſs itſelf is a dreary heathy flat, on which I ſuppoſe the croſs ſtood, to excite the thankſgiving of travellers, for having ſo well accompliſhed their arduous journey. The deſcent on the other ſide, is much greater, and very tedious, into the long and narrow vale of *Mowddwy*. It is ſeven or eight miles long; and ſo contracted, as ſcarcely to admit a meadow at the bottom. Its boundaries are vaſt hills, generally very verdant, and fine ſheep walks; but one on the left exhibits a horrible front, being ſo ſteep, as to balance between precipice and ſlope: it is red and naked, and too ſteep to admit of vegetation; and a ſlide from its ſummit would be as fatal as a fall from a perpendicular rock. In one place on the right, the mountains open, and furniſh a gap to give ſight to another picturesque and ſtrange view, the rugged and wild ſummit of *Aran Mowddwy*, which ſoars above with tremendous majeſty.

VALE OF MOWDDWY.

THERE is a beauty in this vale, which is not frequent in others of theſe mountanous countries. The incloſures are all divided by excellent quickſet hedges, and run far up the ſides of the hills, in places ſo ſteep, that the common traveller would ſcarcely find footing. Numbers of little groves are interſperſed; and the hills above them ſhew a fine turf to the top, where the bog and heath commence, which give ſhelter to multitudes of red grous, and a few black. But their conſequences to theſe parts are infinitely greater,

greater, in being the beds of fuel to all the inhabitants. The turberies are placed very remote from their dwellings; and the turf, or peat, is gotten with great difficulty. The roads from the brows of the mountains, in general, are too ſteep even for a horſe; the men therefore carry up on their backs, a light ſledge, fill it with a very conſiderable load, and drag it, by means of a rope placed over their breaſt, to the brink of the ſlope *; then go before, and draw it down, ſtill preceding, and guiding its motions, which at times have been ſo violent, as to overturn and draw along with it the maſter, to the hazard of his life, and not without conſiderable bodily hurt. TURF SLEDGES.

AFTER riding ſome time along the bottom of the vale, paſs by the village and church of *Llan y Mowddwy*; the laſt is dedicated to *St. Tydecho*, one of our moſt capital ſaints. His legend † is written in verſe, by *Dafydd Llwyd ap Llewelyn ap Gryffydd*, lord of *Mathafarn*; a perſon who had a great hand in bringing in *Henry* VII. by feeding his countrymen with prophecies, that one of them was to deliver *Wales* from the *Engliſh* yoke, by which means thouſands of them were induced to riſe, under Sir *Rhys ap Thomas*, and join *Henry*, then earl of *Richmond*, at *Milford*. ST. TYDECHO.

THIS illuſtrious bard informs us, that *Tydecho* had been an abbot in *Armorica*, and came over here in the time of king *Arthur*;

* At this time the turberies lie at a great diſtance from the brow of the hill; the natives are therefore obliged to bring a horſe by a round-about way to them, which aſſiſts in dragging the turf to the brink of the ſlope, where men ſupply its place.

† *Cywydd y* DYDDECHO SANT yn amſer MEALGWIN GWYNEDD; *i. e.* the poem of *St. Tydecho*, who lived in the time of *Malgwyn Gwynedd*.

but

but after the death of that hero, when the *Saxons* over-ran moſt of the kingdom, the ſaint retired, and led here a moſt auſtere life, lying on the bare ſtones, and wearing a ſhirt of hair: yet he employed his time uſefully, was a tiller of the ground, and kept hoſpitality. *Malgwyn Gwynedd*, then a youth, took offence at the ſaint, and ſeized his oxen; but wild ſtags were ſeen the next day, performing their office, and a grey wolf harrowing after them. *Malgwyn*, enraged at this, brought his milk-white dogs to chace the deer, while he ſat on the blue ſtone, to enjoy the diverſion; but when he attempted to riſe, he found his breech immoveably fixed to the rock, ſo that he was obliged to beg pardon of the ſaint, who, on proper reparation, was ſo kind as to free him from his aukward pain.

So far legend. That *St. Tydecho* might have lived, and that *Malgwyn Gwynedd* did live a prince of our country, I make no doubt; and that the former did receive from the prince the privileges it once enjoyed, of ſanctuary for man and beaſt, is equally probable: every offender, however criminal, met with protection here. Legend ſays, that it was to endure for a hundred ages; but, blind to futurity! the reformation was not foreſeen. This place was alſo exempted from all fighting, burning, and killing; nor was it permitted to affront any of the inhabitants, without making the moſt ample reparation.

THE lands of *Tydecho* were alſo freed from mortuaries, clames, oppreſſion, and that great duty, which moſt places were ſubject to, the *Gobr Merched*, the penalty of incontinence; which the ſaint, in tenderneſs to the poſſible frailty of his flock, wiſely took care to get it exempted from.

ABOUT

DINAS MOWDDWY.

ABOUT four or five miles farther, I reached *Dinas y Mowydwy*, ſeated on the plain of an eminence, at the junction of three vales, beneath the rock *Craig y Dinas*; whoſe peat paths I now ſurvey with horror, reflecting on a frolick of my younger days, in climbing to its ſummit, to enjoy the pleaſure of darting down again in one of the peat ſledges. The foot of this eminence is watered by the *Kerris* and the *Dyfi*. The laſt, which retains its name till loſt in the ſea at *Aberdyfi*, riſes at the bottom of the rude rock *Craig Llyn Dyfi*, under *Aran Mowddwy*. It abounds with ſalmon, which are hunted in the night, by an animated, but illicit chace, by ſpearmen, who are directed to the fiſh by lighted whiſps of ſtraw.

THIS *Mowddwy*, notwithſtanding it is dignified with the name of *Dinas*, or city, conſiſts but of one ſtreet, ſtrait and broad, with houſes ill according with its title; but it ſtill preſerves the inſignia of power, the ſtocks, and whipping-poſt, the *vag-vawr*, or great fetter, the mace, and ſtandard meaſure. It is likewiſe the capital of an extenſive lordſhip, under the rule of my worthy couſin, *John Mytton*, eſquire. He derives it from *William*, or *Wilcocke*, as he is commonly called, fourth ſon of *Gryffyd ap Gwenwynwyn*, lord of *Powis*. His grand-daughter and ſole heir married Sir *Hugh de Burgh*, ſon of the famous *Hugh*, juſticiary of *England*. His ſon, Sir *John*, left four daughters, married into the houſes of *Newport*, *Leighton*, *Lingen*, and *Mytton*; *Alianor*, the fourth daughter, having given her hand, and this ſeignory, to *Thomas Mytton*, anceſtor of the preſent lord.

OWNERS.

THE powers of this capital over a diſtrict, which comprehends this large pariſh, and ſeven out of the eight townſhips of that of *Mallwyd*, are conſiderable. The corporation conſiſts of a mayor,

PRIVILEGES.

aldermen, recorder, and ſeveral burgeſſes. The mayor tries criminals; but, as the late worthy magiſtrate, a very honeſt ſmith, told me, that, for ſome years paſt, they have not adventured to whip; the ſtocks, or confinement in the *vag-vawr*, is the utmoſt ſeverity they have exerted: but then they retain the excluſive power of licenſing ale-houſes in their diſtrict, and are likewiſe juſtices of the peace as far as the limits of their little reign.

The recorder (in abſence of the lord) tries all matters of property, not exceeding forty ſhillings; and the attornies, whoſe fees do not exceed half a crown, are choſen from the lettered part of the community, or thoſe who can read.

I was accommodated with entertainment at the manor-houſe, from whence I took a delightful walk of about two miles, along the vale, on the banks of the *Dyvi*. The valley expands, and the hills ſink in height, towards the weſt. After paſſing the *Dyſi*, croſs a bridge over the deep and ſtill water of the *Klywêdog*, black as ink, paſſing ſluggiſhly through a darkſome chaſm, into open day.

Mallwyd. Reach *Mallwyd*, remarkable for the ſituation of the altar, in the middle of the church; which Doctor *Davies*, author of the dictionary, then incumbent, in defiance of the orders of archbiſhop *Laud*, removed again from its imaginary ſuperſtitious ſite at the eaſt end.

One of the beautiful yew trees in the church-yard, is extremely well worth notice. It is a ſort of foreſt of vaſt trees, iſſuing from one ſtem, forming a moſt extenſive ſhade, and magnificent appearance. Another reaſon for planting theſe trees in church-yards, beſides thoſe uſually aſſigned, was a cuſtom in old times, upon

upon *Palme Sunday*, to make this the ſubſtitute of the tree, from which that *Sunday* took its name; to bleſs on that day the boughs; alſo to burn ſome of them to aſhes; and with thoſe the prieſt, on the following *Aſh-Wedneſday*, ſigned the people on the forehead, ſaying,

Memento, homo! quod pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris.

And of the branches, ſo bleſſed, it was cuſtomary to ſtick ſome in the fields, in rogation week, or at the times of proceſſions.

RETURN to *Dinas y Mowddwy*. On the road was informed of the place, not far from hence, where *Lewis Owen*, vice-chamberlain of *North Wales*, and baron of the exchequer of *North Wales*, was cruelly murdered in the year 1555, by a ſet of banditti, with which this country was over-run. After the wars of the houſes of *York* and *Lancaſter*, multitudes of felons and outlaws inhabited this country; and eſtabliſhed in theſe parts, for a great length of time, from thoſe unhappy days, a race of profligates, who continued to rob, burn, and murder, in large bands, in defiance of the civil power; and would ſteal and drive whole herds of cattle, in mid-day, from one county to another, with the utmoſt impunity. To put a ſtop to their ravages, a commiſſion was granted to *John Wynn ap Meredydd*, of *Gwedyr*, and this gentleman, in order to ſettle the peace of the country, and to puniſh all offenders againſt its government. In purſuance of their orders, they raiſed a body of ſtout men, and on a *Chriſtmas-Eve* ſeized above four ſcore outlaws and felons, on whom they held a jail delivery, and puniſhed them according to their deſerts. Among them were the two ſons of a woman, who very earneſtly applied to *Owen* for the pardon

CRUEL MURDER.

of one: he refuſed; when the mother, in a rage, told him (baring her neck) *Theſe yellow breaſts have given ſuck to thoſe, who ſhall waſh their hands in your blood.* Revenge was determined by the ſurviving villains. They watched their opportunity, when he was paſſing through theſe parts from *Montgomeryſhire* aſſizes, to way-lay him, in the thick woods of *Mowddwy*, at a place now called, from the deed, *Llydiart y Barwn*; where they had cut down ſeveral long trees, to croſs the road, and impede the paſſage. They then diſcharged on him a ſhower of arrows; one of which ſticking in his face, he took out, and broke. After this, they attacked him with bills and javelins, and left him ſlain, with above thirty wounds. His ſon-in-law, *John Llwyd*, of *Ceiſgwyn*, defended him to the laſt; but his cowardly attendants fled on the firſt onſet. His death gave peace to the country; for moſt rigorous juſtice enſued; and the whole neſt of banditti was extirpated, many by the hand of juſtice; and the reſt fled, never to return.

The traditions of the country reſpecting theſe banditti, are ſtill extremely ſtrong. I was told that they were ſo feared, that travellers did not dare to go the common road to *Shrewſbury*, but paſſed over the ſummits of the mountains, to avoid their haunts. The inhabitants placed ſcythes in the chimneys of their houſes, to prevent the felons coming down to ſurprize them in the night; ſome of which are to be ſeen to this day. This race was diſtinguiſhed by the titles *Gwyllied y Dugoed*, and *Gwilliaid Cochion Mowddwy*, i. e. *The Banditti of the Black Wood*, and *The red-headed Banditti of Mowddwy*.

Leave *Dinas*, and take the road towards *Dolgelleu*. Paſs by ſome deſerted lead mines; which, as yet, have never been worked

with ſucceſs. I may here mention an earth, which this place is noted for, a bluiſh ochre, which the ſhepherds wet, and pound in a mortar, then form into balls, and uſe in marking their ſheep. An old proverb of the three things which *Mowddwy* wiſhes to ſend out of the country, ſhews their long knowlege of it.

OCHRE.

O Fowddy ddu ni ddaw, dim allan.
A ellir i rwyſtraw,
Ond tri pheth helaeth hylaw
Dyn atgas, NOD GLAS, *a gwlaw*.*

ABOUT three miles from *Dinas*, leave on the left the vaſt ſheep farm of *Pennant-higi*: a deep bottom, environed on three ſides by vaſt mountains, forming a noble theatre. This whole country abounds in ſheep and cattle; and the wool is manufactured in all parts into flannel and ſtockings.

ASCEND a ſteep hill, into the paſs *Bwlch Oer-ddyrws*; and the country beyond ſuddenly aſſumes a new face. Before us is a vaſt extent of dreary ſlope, bounded by vaſt rocky mountains; among which, *Cader Idris* ſoars pre-eminent.

BWLCH OER-DDRWS.

THIS paſs is noted for being one of the three places, in which were aſſembled, ſix years after the wars of *Glyndwr*, all the great men of certain diſtricts, in order to enforce the obſervation of juſtice by their own weight, without any other legal ſanction. This, perhaps, was occaſioned by the mercileſs laws enacted againſt the *Welſh* by *Henry* IV. At each of theſe places, they entered into a compact to cauſe juſtice to be done for all wrongs

CONVENTION THERE.

* Deteſted people, blue-marking earth, and rain.

inflicted

inflicted before and after the wars, but not during that turbulent period. Every one was to have his goods, or land, which had been forced from him, reſtored without law-ſuit; and any goods detained after this, were to be deemed as ſtolen: or if his lord ſold them, he was fined ten pounds, and the goods, or their value, to the owner. If the refractory perſon was hanged, or died a natural death, the demand lay good againſt the wife, heirs, or executors: but if they or ſhe denied the demand, the plaintiff muſt procure his compurgators, viz. ſix perſons with him, to ſwear to the right of his clame; but (like the *Engliſh*, in caſes of jury) the defendant had a right to challenge one of the ſix; and another was to be provided in his ſtead.

After this, follow various regulations for reſtoring the government of the country in general; and ſeveral laws relative to waifs and eſtrays, vagrants, bail, recovery of debts, manſlaughter, thefts, duty of officers, &c. The code concludes with valuation of ſeveral goods and chattels, for which ſatisfaction was to be made. For example, a horſe and mare, on the oath of the owner and two neighbors, were valued at ten ſhillings; a foal at twenty pence; an ox at a mark; a cow at ten ſhillings; the hire of an ox, and the milk of a cow, were alſo valued; an ewe was eſteemed at ſixteen pence, her wool at four pence, her milk at two pence, and her lamb at eight pence.

As a proof of the high value of arms, and that we had few manufactures of that kind, a two-handed ſword was valued at ten ſhillings, a one-handed at ſix ſhillings and eight pence, and a ſteel buckler at two ſhillings and eight pence: but, what is very

ſingular,

ſingular, a bow, which themſelves could make, was valued at ſixteen pence, and an arrow at ſix pence.

To all theſe laws, no penalty was annexed for the breach; except the forfeiture of the benefit of the compact, which, in thoſe unſettled times, was probably ſufficient, as it left the party unſupported and friendleſs.

DESCEND from hence, along very bad ſtoney roads, to *Dolgelleu*; every entrance to which is barred by a turnpike, in imitation of other places; and every approach mended for a ſhort ſpace, by help of the ſcanty tolls. The town is ſmall; the ſtreets diſpoſed in a moſt irregular manner; but the ſituation is in a beautiful vale, fertile, well wooded, and embelliſhed with numbers of pretty ſeats, and watered by the river *Onion*; over which, on account of its floods, is a bridge of ſeveral arches. The town takes its name from its being placed in a dale abundant in hazels. It has nothing in it remarkable but the church, which, notwithſtanding it is pew-leſs, is a good building. Within is the monument of *Meiric Vychan ap Ynyr Vychan*, of the neighboring houſe of *Nanney*, fifth in deſcent from prince *Cadwgan*, ſon of *Bleyddyn ap Cynvyn*, who reſided there, and in whoſe poſterity it continues to this time. He is armed in a cloſe mail helmet and neck-guard, ſword in hand, and with a ſhort mantle over the reſt of his armour. DOLGELLEU.

Cader Idris riſes immediately above the town, and is generally the object of the traveller's attention. I ſkirted the mountain for about two miles, left on the right the ſmall lake of *Llyn Gwernan*; and began the aſcent along a narrow ſteep horſe-way, perhaps the higheſt road in *Britain*, being a common paſſage even for loaden CADER IDRIS.

horſes, into *Llan-vihangel-y-Pennant*, a vale on the other ſide. On gaining the brow of the hill, I found it to be a very extenſive paſture of coarſe graſs, mixed with a little bog. The hill ſlopes from hence upwards: the ſteeper part to the higheſt peak, or the *Pen yr Cader*, grows more and more rocky: the approach to the ſummit extremely ſo, and covered with huge fragments of diſcolored rocks, very rugged, and cemented by a ſemivitrified matter, which gives them a very vulcanic look, added to their diſjoined, adventitious appearance. I met with, on my aſcent, quantities of pumice, of the ſame cellular kind with the *toadſtone of Derbyſhire*, but of a green color. The day proved ſo wet and miſty, that I loſt the enjoyment of the great view from the ſummit. I could only ſee that the ſpot I was on was a rude aggregate of ſtrangely diſordered maſſes. I could at intervals perceive a ſtupendous precipice on one ſide, where the hill recedes inwards, forming a ſort of theatre, with a lake at the bottom; yet very high, in compariſon of the baſe of the mountain. On the other ſide, at a nearer diſtance, I ſaw *Craig Cay*, a great rock, with a lake beneath, lodged in a deep hollow; poſſibly the crater of an antient *Vulcano*. This is ſo excellently expreſſed by the admirable pencil of my kinſman, Mr. *Wilſon*, that I ſhall not attempt the deſcription.

In deſcending from the *Cader*, I kept on the edge of the greater precipice, till I came near the *Cyfrwy*, another peak. The whole ſpace, for a conſiderable way, was covered with looſe ſtones, in the form of a ſtream, ſloping from the precipitous ſide. Multi-

Columns. tudes of them were columnar, but not jointed, ſquare, or pentagonal; none erect, but lying very diſorderly, in all directions.

Some

Some appeared hanging down the face of the precipice; the ends of others were peeping out at a vaſt depth beneath me, which ſhewed the great thickneſs of the ſtream. I wiſh the day had been more favorable; but I hope another traveller will ſurround the whole, and make a more ſatisfactory relation of this mountain, than I have been able to do.

HEIGHT. IN reſpect to the heights of this mountain, and thoſe of *Aran Benllyn*, and the *Arrenig Vawr*, I am enabled to give a very exact account, by the aſſiſtance of the ingenious Mr. *Meredith Hughes*, of *Bala*; who aſſures me, that the *Pen y Gader* is nine hundred and fifty yards higher than the green near *Dolgelleu*; *Aran Benllyn*, ſeven hundred and forty above *Llyn-tegid*; and the *Arrenig*, only twenty yards ſhort of the *Aran*; that the fall from the lake to *Dolgelleu-Green*, is one hundred and eighty yards; ſo that the real difference of height between the *Cader* and the *Aran*, is only thirty yards.

AFTER recovering the fatigue of this journey, I began another, in order to encircle the vaſt baſe of the mountain. I took the ſame road as I did before; and continued my ride beneath *Tyrrau Mawr*, one of the points of *Cader Idris*, the higheſt rock I ever rode under. Beyond, on the right, are the two pools called *Llynian Cregenan*; and not far diſtant, are ſome remains of circles of upright ſtones, with many carns; a vaſt ſtone, raiſed erect on the top of a neighboring rock; and ſeveral *maeni hirion*, or rude upright columns.

LLYS BRADWEN. AT ſome diſtance beyond theſe, near the river *Kregennan*, I ſaw the remains of *Llŷs Bradwen*, the court or palace of *Ednowain*, chief of one of the fifteen tribes of *North Wales*, either in the

reign of *Gryffydd ap Cynan*, or ſoon after. The reliques are about thirty yards ſquare: the entrance about ſeven feet wide, with a large upright ſtone on each ſide, by way of door-caſe: the walls with large ſtones, uncemented by any mortar: in ſhort, the ſtructure of this palace ſhews the very low ſtate of architecture in thoſe times: it may be paralleled only by the artleſs fabrick of a cattle houſe.

Ednyfed ap Aaron, a deſcendant of this great man, had the honor of entertaining *Owen Glyndwr*, in one of his ſad reverſes of fortune; and is ſaid to have concealed him from the purſuit of his enemies, in the pariſh of *Llan Gelynin*, in a cave, to this day called *Ogof Owain*.

I MUST not lead the reader into a belief, that every habitation of theſe early times, were equal in magnificence to that of *Ednowain ap Bradwen*. Thoſe of inferior gentry were formed of wattles, like *Indian* wigwams, or *Highland* hovels; without gardens or orchard, and formed for removal from place to place, for the ſake of new paſture, or a greater plenty of game. The furniture was correſpondent; there were neither tables, nor cloths, nor napkins *; but this is leſs wonderful, ſince we find, that even ſo late as the time of *Edward* II. ſtraw was uſed in the royal apartment †. Notwithſtanding this, the utmoſt hoſpitality was preſerved: every houſe was open, even to the pooreſt perſon. When a ſtranger entered, his arms were taken from him, and layed by; and, after the ſcriptural cuſtom, water was brought to

ANTIENT HOSPITALITY.

* *Girald. Cambr. Deſcr. Walliæ*, 888.

† *Anderſon's Dict. Com.* ii. 112.

waſh

waſh his feet. The fare was ſimple; the meal did not conſiſt of an elegant variety, but of numbers of things put together in a large diſh: the bread was thin oat-cakes, ſuch as are common in our mountanous parts at this time. The family waited on the gueſts, and never touched any thing till they had done, when it took up with what was left. Muſic, and the free converſation of the young women, formed the amuſements of the time; for jealouſy was unknown among us. Bands of young men, who knew no profeſſion but that of arms, often entered the houſes, and were welcome gueſts; for they were conſidered as the voluntary defenders of the liberties of their country. They mixed with the female part of the family, joined their voices to the melody of the harp, and conſumed the day with the moſt animated feſtivity. At length, ſunk into repoſe, not under rich teſters, or on downy beds, but along the ſides of the room, on a thin covering of dried reeds, placed round the great fire, which was placed in the centre, they lay down promiſcuouſly, covered only by a coarſe home-made cloth, called *Brychan*, or plaid, the ſame with the more antient *Bracha*; and kept one another warm, by lying cloſe together; or ſhould one ſide loſe its genial heat, they turn about, and give the chilly ſide to the fire *.

ANTIENT MINSTRELSIE.

Some vein of the antient minſtrelſie is ſtill to be met with in theſe mountanous countries. Numbers of perſons, of both ſexes, aſſemble, and ſit around the harp, ſinging alternately *pennylls*, or ſtanzas of antient or modern poetry. The young people uſually begin the night with dancing, and when they are tired, ſit down,

* *Giraldus*, 888.

and aſſume this ſpecies of relaxation. Oftentimes, like the modern *Improviſitore* of *Italy*, they will ſing extempore verſes. A perſon converſant in this art, will produce a *pennyll* appoſite to the laſt which was ſung: the ſubjects produce a great deal of mirth; for they are ſometimes jocular, at others ſatyrical, and many amorous. They will continue ſinging without intermiſſion, and never repeat the ſame ſtanza; for that would occaſion the loſs of the honor of being held firſt of the ſong. Like nightingales, they ſupport the conteſt throughout the night: *Certant inter ſe, palamque animoſa contentio——victa morte finit ſæpe vitam, ſpiritu prius deficiente quam cantu*, may almoſt be added. The audience uſually call for the tune: ſometimes only a few can ſing to it; and in many caſes the whole company: but when a party of capital ſingers aſſemble, they rarely call for a tune; for it is indifferent to them, what tune the harper plays. Pariſhes often contend againſt pariſhes; and every hill is vocal with the chorus.

Continue the ride, as before, between high mountains, in a narrow glen. Quit the narrow paſs, and go along a good road, formed on the ſides of the hills, with a fine ſlope from it to the ſea, at this time ſtrangely mottled with black and green, varied by the light through the broken clouds. The road now paſſes between verdant and ſmooth hills, the great ſheep walks of the country; they are round at their tops, and covered with flocks, which yield the materials for the neighboring manufactures. From a place called *Allt-Lwyd*, have a very full view of the flat called *Towyn Meirionydd*, a mixture of meadow land and black turbery, watered by the *Dyſynni*, which falls into the ſea a few miles

miles lower. On one ſide is the village and church of *Tywyn*, or *Towyn*. The rectory is an impropriation in the biſhop of *Lichfield*: the vicarage formerly belonged to the nunnery of *Barking*, in *Eſſex*, now in the patronage of the biſhop of *Bangor*. I neglected viſiting this place; but believe my trouble would not have been thrown away; for I find, among Mr. *Llwyd*'s papers *, the drawing of the ſepulchral effigies of a churchman, another of a warrior, and two rude pillars, one ſeven feet high, with the figure of the croſs, and an inſcription on each ſide, in old characters. Another column, marked likewiſe with a croſs, but inſcribed with letters of a different form, is drawn in the ſame collection, from one in the church-yard of *Llanvihangel y Traetheu*, in this county. TOWYN.

FROM the place where I made this digreſſion, I deſcended a ſteep path through fields; and, croſſing the river, dined on a great ſtone beneath the vaſt rock *Craig y Deryn*, or *The Rock of Birds*, ſo called from the numbers of corvorants, rock pigeons, and hawks, which breed on it. At the foot is a prodigious ſtream of ſtones, which extend ſome hundreds of yards from the bottom of the rock, and is formed by the continual lapſe of fragments from it. Here the *Towyn* is contracted into a fertile vale, which extends about two miles further. Near its end is a long and high rock, narrow on the top. Here ſtood the caſtle of *Teberri*, which extended lengthways over the whole ſurface of the ſummit, and was a fortreſs of great ſtrength and extent. The moſt complete apartment was thirty-ſix feet broad, and was cut out of the rock on two ſides; for much of it is hollowed. In ſome parts, the CRAIG Y DERYN. TEBERRI CASTLE.

* *Sebright* MSS.

precipices,

precipices, ſkirted by a wall, formed the defence. The remaining walls are well built: the ſtones ſquared: the mortar, ſhells, and gravel, but at preſent very rotten. The whole of this place is ſo overgrown with buſhes, as to render the ſurvey very difficult. It lies in the pariſh of *Llan vi hangel y Pennant*, and is ſaid to have been once defended by a *Coch o'r Pennant*, or *The Red*, of that place.

THIS probably was the caſtle *Bere* belonging to our laſt *Llewelyn*, which was taken, not long before the final conqueſt of *Wales*, by *William de Valence*, earl of *Pembroke* *. This ſeems to have been likewiſe the ſame which was committed by *Edward* I. to the cuſtody of *Robert Fitzwalter*, who had, at the ſame time, the liberty of hunting all kinds of wild beaſts in this county †. It is fit to mention this, as there was another ſtrong fortreſs in *Cardiganſhire*, of a ſimilar name.

TAL Y LLYN. RETURN about half a mile, and ride ſeveral miles along the pretty vale of *Tal y Llyn*; very narrow, but conſiſting of fine meadows, bounded by lofty verdant mountains, very ſteeply ſloped. Went by *Llyn y Myngil*, a beautiful lake, about a mile long, which ſo far fills the valley, as to leave only a narrow road on one ſide. Its termination is very pictureſque; for it contracts gradually into the form of a river, and ruſhes through a good ſtone arch into a narrow paſs, having on one ſide the church, on the other a few cottages, mixed with trees. The church, and that of *Llanvehangel y Pennant*, are chapels to *Towyn* ‡.

* *Leland's Collect.* i. 178.
† *Rotulæ Walliæ*, 99.
‡ *Ecton*, 499.

SINGULAR COFFIN.

ADJACENT to this valley, at a place called *Llwyn Dôl Ithel,* in the year 1684, was found, in digging turf about three yards deep, a coffin, made of deal, about ſeven feet long, carved and gilt at both ends. Two ſkeletons, ſuppoſed of different ſexes, were found in it, placed with the head of the one parallel to the feet of the other; the bones were moiſt and tough, and of an uncommon ſize, the thigh bones being twenty-ſeven inches long. Within a yard of the coffin, were found two other ſkeletons, of the ſame dimenſions with the former, layed on the bare clay; and within two roods of them, a grave, with a ſkeleton of the uſual ſize. Along the graves and coffin were layed hazel rods, with the bark on, and ſo tough, as to be flexible †. The high preſervation of theſe rods, and the toughneſs of the bones, were owing to the bituminous quality of the turbery in which they were depoſited. The rods were placed for ſome ſuperſtitious purpoſe, perhaps to avert the power of witchcraft, ſince a double hazel-nut, in ſome parts of the Highlands of *Scotland,* is to this day ſuppoſed to have that virtue.

A FEW miles beyond *Tal y Llyn* church, the hills almoſt meet at their bottoms, and change their aſpect. No verdure now is to be ſeen, but a general appearance of rude and ſavage nature. The ſides are broken into a thouſand crags; ſome ſpiring and ſharp pointed; but the greater part project forward, and impend in ſuch a manner, as to render the apprehenſion of their fall tremendous. A few buſhes grow among them; but the duſky color

† *Lhuyd's Itin.* MS. Another inſtance is related in *Cambden,* ii. 793.

of

of them, as well as the rocks, only ſerved to add horror to the ſcene.

LLAM Y LLADRON.

ONE of the precipices is called *Pen y Delyn*, from ſome reſemblance it has to a harp. Another is ſtyled *Llam y Lladron*, or *The Thieves Leap*, from a tradition that thieves were brought there, and thrown down. I have no doubt but that ſuch a puniſhment might have been inflicted from this *Welſh Tarpeian*, by order of an arbitrary lord; but we formerly very rarely uſed capital puniſhments, for any crime; not but the gallows was in uſe for theft *, but fines were accepted in almoſt all inſtances, even in caſes of murder; which gave riſe to private revenge, and brought on a train of endleſs feuds and bloodſhed.

LLYN Y TRI GRAIENYN.

ON the left, is the rugged height of *Cader Idris*, paſs near a ſmall lake, called *Llyn y tri Graienyn*, or of the three *grains*; which are three vaſt rocks, the ruins of the neighboring mountain, which ſome time or other had fallen into the water. Theſe, ſay the peaſants, were the three grains which had fallen into the ſhoe of the great *Idris*, which he threw out here, as ſoon as he felt them hurting his foot.

NANNEY.

PASS over *Bwlch Coch*, and, after deſcending a very bad road, again reach *Dolgelleu*; from whence I viſited *Nanney*, the antient ſeat of the antient family of the *Nanneys*, now of the *Vaughans*. The way to it is a continual aſcent of two miles; ſo perhaps it is the higheſt ſituation of any gentleman's houſe in *Britain*. The eſtate is covered with fine timber, which clothe all the ſides of the dingles for many miles. On the road ſide is a venerable oak, in its laſt ſtage

* *Leges Walliæ*, 221.

of

of decay, and pierced by age into the form of a gothic arch; yet its preſent girth is twenty-ſeven feet and a half. The name is very claſſical, *Derwen Ceubren yr Ellyll*, the hollow oak, the haunt of *dæmons*. How often has not warm fancy ſeen the fairy tribe revel round its trunk! or may not the viſionary eye have ſeen the *Hamadryad* burſt from the bark of its coeval tree?

Above *Nanney* is a high rock, with the top incircled with a dike of looſe ſtones. This had been a *Britiſh* poſt, the ſtation, perhaps, of ſome tyrant, it being called *Moel Orthrwm*, or the hill of oppreſſion.

The park of *Nanney* is remarkable for its very ſmall, but very excellent veniſon. I have before mentioned the ruins of the houſe of *Howel Sele*, within this park, and related his unfortunate hiſtory *.

Return through *Dolgelleu*; and about a mile beyond, on a riſing ſpot, have a beautiful view of three vales, finely bounded by hills, and embelliſhed with gentlemen's houſes; finely watered by the junction of the *Onion* and the *Maw*, or *Mowdach*. I was diverted from taking the direct road to *Barmouth*, by the great deference I always found reaſon to pay to the judgement of a gentleman, who, a few years ago, honored our country with his remarks †, and has made a particular euloge on the caſcades of *Glyn-Maw*. Let me add, that the conſideration of ending this little excurſion at the hoſpitable houſe of Mr. *Garnons*, of *Rhiw Goch*, was another ſpur to my deſign.

* Tour in *Wales*, i. 324.

† A Gentleman's Tour through *Monmouthſhire* and *Wales*, in 1774, printed for *T. Evans*, 1775.

Cross the bridge of *Llan Elltyd.* Below is a fine tract of meadow, wretchedly deformed by the neceſſity of digging into them for turf, the fuel of the country. The tide flows within a ſmall diſtance of this place; and on the banks I ſaw a ſmall ſloop, ready to be launched. On the left is the church of *Llan-Elltyd:* on the right, in a rich flat, ſtand the remains of the abbey of

Cymmer Abbey.

Cymmer. Part of the church is ſtill to be ſeen, and ſhews its antient grandeur. At the eaſt end are three lofty, but very narrow windows, pointed at top; and over them three leſſer, mantled in a great and gloomy thicket of ivy. The great hall, and part of the abbot's lodgings, now form a farm-houſe.

This had been an abbey of *Ciſtercians,* founded (not by *Llewelyn ap Jorwerth,* as has been ſuppoſed, who only confirmed the donations, as prince of *Wales)* but by the two princes *Meredydd* and *Gryffydd,* the ſons of *Conan* and *Howel,* the ſon of *Gryffydd,* about the year 1198. In the charter of *Llewelyn,* in 1209, is mention of their benefactions, of his own, and of the boundaries of the abbey lands *; which ſhew it had been founded by other perſons. This charter is moſt ample, over rivers, lakes, and ſea; birds, and wild beaſts and tame; over all mountains, woods, things moveable and immoveable; and over all things under and over the lands ſo granted; and gives liberty of digging for metals and hidden treaſures: all which was done in preſence of *Eſau,* then *lord* abbot, and others, religious of the houſe †. At the diſſolution, its re-

* *Sebright* MSS.

† *Dugdale Monaſt.* i. 826; who, as well as *Tanner,* confounds this with *Cwmhir* abbey, in *South Wales.*

venues were valued at fifty-one pounds thirteen ſhillings and ſix pence, by *Dugdale*; at fifty-eight pounds fifteen ſhillings and four pence, by *Speed*. The only charge on it in 1553, was ſix pounds thirteen ſhillings and four pence, paid to *Lewis ap Thomas*, ſuppoſed to have been the laſt abbot ‡.

Uchtred ap Edwyn built a caſtle here, which was taken and overthrown, about 1116, by *Eneon ap Cadwgan*, and *Gryffyd ap Meredydd ap Bleyddyn* §; and its place is not at preſent even known. CASTLE.

CONTINUE my journey on a bank high above the *Maw*. The valley grows ſoon very contracted; the ſides of the hills finely covered with wood, almoſt to the top; and the river aſſumes the form of a torrent, rolling over a rocky channel.

ABOUT five or ſix miles from *Dolgelleu*, at *Dôl y Melynllyn*, I turned out of the road, meeting the furious courſe of the *Gamlan*, that falls, with ſhort interruptions, from rock to rock, for a very conſiderable ſpace, amidſt the woods and buſhes, till it reaches a lofty precipice, from whence it precipitates into a black pool, ſhaded by trees (which gives to the cataract the name of *Rhaiader-ddu*, or *The Black.*) A noble birch, placed above, finely finiſhes this pictureſque ſcene. RHAIADER DDU

CROSS *Pont ar Gamlan*, below which the river falls into the *Maw*. Not far from thence, the junction of the *Maw* and *Eden* forms another fine ſcene. A lofty hill, cloathed with woods, ends here, and forms the forks of the rivers, correſpondent to the ſteeps

‡ *Willis*, ii. 313.
§ *Powel*, 183.

through which theſe torrents roll, and exhibits a view like thoſe of the ſhady wilds of *America*.

Begin a conſiderable aſcent, and find on the top ſome groves of handſome oaks: before me, a naked country. Deſcend, through ſome ſteep fields, to another ſet of wooded dingles, that wind along the bottoms, and join with the former. In various parts, *Cader Idris* appears in full majeſty over theſe ſloping foreſts, and gives a magnificent finiſhing to the proſpect. Soon after my arrival among the woods, another caſcade aſtoniſhes me with its grandeur. From the ſituation I was in, it formed a vaſt fall, bounded on one ſide by broken ledges of rocks, on the other by a lofty precipice, with trees here and there growing out of its mural front. On the ſummit of each part, oaks and birch form diſtinct little groves, and give it a ſort of character diſtinct from our other cataracts. After the water reaches the bottom of the deep concavity, it ruſhes in a narrow rocky chaſm, of a very great depth, over which is an admirable wooden *Alpine* bridge; and the whole, for a conſiderable way, awefully canopied by trees. This is called *Piſtill y Kain*, or the ſpout of the river *Kain*. At no great diſtance from it, is another (for nature is here profuſe in her beauties of this kind). The *Maw*, for ſome ſpace, runs along a deep glen, finiſhed by a bare mountain, ſeen through viſtos, formed by the woods on each ſide. The water tumbles down a ſeries of ledges, of different heights, into a very black and ſullen pool, from which it re-aſſumes its violence, and is loſt among the far extending woods.

Pistill y Maw.

In the nakedneſs of winter, there is a ſpot, far above, from whence theſe two cataracts may be ſeen at once, exhibiting through the

the trees a piece of ſcenery, as uncommon as it is grand. After emerging from theſe romantic depths, I reach a long extent of woodleſs tract, the vaſt pariſh of *Trawsfynnydd*, walled in on all ſides by lofty rugged mountains, of various forms.

BEDH PORUS.

IN a farm-houſe, not far from this road to *Rhiw Goch*, I viſited *Bedh Porus*, or the grave of *Porus*. On a flat ſtone over it, is the following inſcription, copied ſomewhat differently by Mr. *Llwyd*, in the *Britannia* *:

PORVS
HIC IN TVMVLO IACIT,
HOMO PIANVS FVIT.

SOME have ſuppoſed the P to have been an R, and the word to have been CHRISTIANUS FUIT; but, whatſoever the letter in diſpute might have been, there certainly never was room between HOMO and the next word, for the letters CHRIS.

SARN HELEN.

NOT far from it, in another field, is a great upright ſtone, called *Llech Idris*. There is ſome ſilly legend about it, concerning the giant *Idris*; but it is no more than one of the monumental columns, ſo frequent in *Wales*, and many other parts.

AFTER a ſhort ride, ſee on a common, for the firſt time, the noted *Sarn*, or *Llwybr Helen*, the cauſeway or path of *Helen*; a road ſuppoſed to have been made through part of *North Wales*, by *Helena*, daughter of *Eudda*, or *Octavius*, and wife to the emperor *Maximus* †.

THIS road is now entirely covered with turf; but, by the riſing of it, is in moſt parts very viſible: beneath are the ſtones which

* II. 791. † *Rowland*, 165.

form it, and extend in all its courſe, to the breadth of eight yards. There are tumuli near it, in various places, it being very uſual for the *Romans* to inter near their highways. Cloſe to the part in queſtion is one, in which were found five urns: the whole materials of it are compoſed of burnt earth and ſtones, with ſeveral fragments of bricks, which had been placed round the urns, to keep them from being cruſhed.

CASTELL PRYSOR. AFTER repoſing a night at *Rhiw Goch*, adjacent to this part of the journey, I continued it a few miles to *Caſtell Pryſor*, a very ſingular little fort, placed in a paſs between the hills, on a natural round rock, appearing, at firſt ſight, like the artificial mounts we had before obſerved. Around its ſummit had been the wall, whoſe remains are viſible in ſeveral places; and in one is the appearance of a round tower: the facings are very regular, but the work deſtitute of mortar. Notwithſtanding this, the caſtelet is probably *Roman*; for multitudes of coins and urns are found about it. The name explains the cauſe of the want of lime in the walls, *Caſtell Pryſor* ſignifying a caſtle *made in haſte*, ſo that there was not time to prepare the uſual cement. Around its baſe are the foundations of ſeveral buildings, which were placed there to enjoy the protection of the place.

FROM hence I took the track towards *Feſtiniog*, and ſaw, by the road ſide, *Llyn Rathllyn*, a ſmall lake, noted for a ſtrange variety

CROOKED PERCH. of perch, with a hunched back, and the lower part of the backbone, near the tail, oddly diſtorted*: in other reſpects, they reſemble the common kind, which are equally numerous in this water. The ſame are found at *Fahlun*, in *Sweden*.

* *Br. Zool.* iii. tab. xlviii.

NOT

Roman Camp.

Not far from hence, within the incloſed country, I found a very fine *Roman* camp, moſt judiciouſly placed, in a ſituation over an extenſive view of the country, partly level, partly inclining from it, and commanding a number of paſſes to the leſſer poſts of this mountanous tract. It is ſurrounded with a ditch and bank, on the laſt of which are the veſtiges of a wall: near one end is a great mount of earth, broken and hollow in the middle, from the removal of the ſtones which compoſed the fort: round its baſe is a deep ditch. This camp is called *Tommen y Mur*, or the mount within the wall. Coins and urns are as frequent about this place as the former. *Sarn Helen* runs into it at one end, and is continued to *Rhyd yr Halen*, in *Feſtiniog* pariſh, and by the ſide of *Fannod Vawr*, and over a farm called *Cae Du*, to *Ffrydd y Dduallt*, to the upper part of a farm called *Croeſor*, at the upper end of *Cwm Croeſor*, and through *Cae Ddafydd*, in *Nanmor*, and perhaps to *Dinas Emrys*. The branches are numerous: I cannot entertain a doubt but that one pointed, by *Caſtell Dol Wyddelan*, to *Caer Hûn*, or *Conovium*; and that by *Pont Aber Glas Llyn*, and *y Gymwynas*, or the work *done in kindneſs*, may be ſuppoſed to have been another, pointing to *Segontium*. I have before mentioned a *Ffordd Helen*, among the *Berwyn* hills; and let me add thoſe recorded by the annotator on *Cambden*, in *Llanbadarn Odyn*, in *Caerdiganſhire*; and from *Brecknock* to *Neath*, in *Glamorganſhire*; which paſs under the name of the ſame princeſs *.

Oval Inclosure.

Close by the road ſide, on the common, at a ſmall diſtance from the camp, is an oval incloſure, about thirty-ſix yards long,

* *Cambden*, ii. 790.

and

and twenty-ſeven wide in the middle, ſurrounded by a high mound of earth, but without a foſs. There were two entrances, one oppoſite to the other; and near one end, a part ſeemed to have been divided off by a wall, whoſe foundations ſtill remain.

I RETURNED out of the pariſh of *Trawsfynnydd*, along the beautiful road of the preceding day, till I reached *Llan Elltyd*, when I kept on the ſide of the hill, above the valley which leads to *Barmouth*. The ride is very pictureſque; the vale watered by the *Maw* (known here only by the name of *Avon*, or *The River*) which widens as we advanced: the ſides bounded by hills, chequered with woods. I found the little town of

BARMOUTH

Barmouth, ſeated near the bottom of ſome high mountains, and the houſes placed on the ſteep ſides, one above another, in ſuch a manner as to give the upper an opportunity of ſeeing down the chimneys of their next ſubjacent neighbors. The town is ſeated very near to the ſea, at the mouth of the *Maw*, or *Mawddoch*; and takes its name of *Barmouth*, *i. e. Aber Maw*, or *Mawddoch*, from that circumſtance. At high water, the tide forms here a bay, about a mile over, but the entrance hazardous, on account of the many ſand-banks. This is the port of *Meirioniddſhire*; but not ſo much frequented as it ought to be, by reaſon the inhabitants do not attempt commerce on a large ſcale, but vend their manufactures through the means of factors, who run away with much of the advantages which the natives might enjoy; yet ſhips now and then come to fetch the webs, or flannels; and I am informed, that a few years ago, forty thouſand pounds worth have been exported in a year, and ten thouſand

pounds

pounds worth of ſtockings. Many of the webs are ſold into *Spain*, and from thence ſent to *South America*.

FASTING WOMAN.

In a former viſit * to this place, my curioſity was excited to examine into the truth of a ſurprizing relation of a woman in the pariſh of *Cylynin*, who had faſted a moſt ſupernatural length of time. I took boat, had a moſt pleaſant paſſage up the harbour, charmed with the beauty of the ſhores, intermixed with woods, verdant paſtures, and corn fields. I landed, and, after a ſhort walk, found, in a farm called *Tydden Bach*, the object of my excurſion, *Mary Thomas*, who was boarded here, and kept with great humanity and neatneſs. She was of the age of forty-ſeven, of a good countenance, very pale, thin, but not ſo much emaciated as might be expected, from the ſtrangeneſs of the circumſtances I am going to relate; her eyes weak, her voice low, deprived of the uſe of her lower extremities, and quite bed-ridden; her pulſe rather ſtrong, her intellects clear and ſenſible.

On examining her, ſhe informed me, that at the age of ſeven, ſhe had ſome eruptions like the meaſles, which grew confluent and univerſal; and ſhe became ſo ſore, that ſhe could not bear the leſt touch: ſhe received ſome eaſe by the application of a ſheep's ſkin, juſt taken from the animal. After this, ſhe was ſeized, at ſpring and fall, with ſwellings and inflammations, during which time ſhe was confined to her bed; but in the intervals could walk about; and once went to *Holywell*, in hopes of cure.

* *July* 18th, 1770.

When ſhe was about twenty-ſeven years of age, ſhe was attacked with the ſame complaint, but in a more violent manner; and during two years and a half, remained inſenſible, and took no manner of nouriſhment, notwithſtanding her friends forced open her mouth with a ſpoon, to get ſomething down; but the moment the ſpoon was taken away, her teeth met, and cloſed with vaſt ſnapping and violence: during that time, ſhe flung up vaſt quantities of blood.

She well remembers the return of her ſenſes, and her knowlege of every body about her. She thought ſhe had ſlept but a night, and aſked her mother whether ſhe had given her any thing the day before, for ſhe found herſelf very hungry. Meat was brought to her; but ſo far from being able to take any thing ſolid, ſhe could ſcarcely ſwallow a ſpoonful of thin whey. From this, ſhe continued ſeven years and a half without any food or liquid, excepting ſufficient of the latter to moiſten her lips. At the end of this period, ſhe again fancied herſelf hungry, and deſired an egg; of which ſhe got down the quantity of a nut kernel. About this time, ſhe requeſted to receive the ſacrament; which ſhe did, by having a crum of bread ſteeped in the wine. After this, ſhe takes for her daily ſubſiſtence a bit of bread, weighing about two penny-weights ſeven grains, and drinks a wine glaſs of water: ſometimes a ſpoonful of wine, but frequently abſtains whole days from food and liquids. She ſleeps very indifferently: the ordinary functions of nature are very ſmall, and very ſeldom performed. Her attendant told me, that her diſpoſition of mind was mild; her temper even; that ſhe was very religious, and very fervent

in

in prayer: the natural effect of the ſtate of her body, long unembarraſſed with the groſſneſs of food, and a conſtant alienation of thought from all worldly affairs *.

This inſtance of the influence of diſeaſe (for ſuch only can it be called) ſtrange as it is, is not without parallel.

The firſt is the caſe of a lady, a patient of the late doctor *Gower*, of *Chelmsford*, who was confined to her bed for ten years, during which time ſhe had an extreme and conſtant averſion to all kinds of ſolid nouriſhment. She drank a pint of tea daily; and once in three or four days chewed, without ſwallowing, a few raiſins of the ſun and blanched almonds, about four or half a dozen of each: ſhe ſeldom eat oftener than once a month, and then only a bit of dry bread, of the ſize of a nutmeg; but frequently abſtained from food for many weeks together. This lady recovered, by means of conſtant medical regimen; ſo that ſhe could walk two miles, without taking either reſt or refreſhment.

I refer the reader to the *Tour* in *Scotland* of 1769, for the extraordinary caſe of *Katherine Macleod*, of the county of *Roſs*; and finally, ſhall mention that of *Martha Taylor*, of ——————, near *Bakewell*, *Derbyſhire*, who abſtained from food from *December* 22, 1669, for thirteen months, and took nothing the whole time, excepting a few drops of ſyrup, water and ſugar, or the juice of roaſted raiſins. She was alſo very religious; was much emaciated; her palms moiſt; her other evacuations very ſmall †.

* She was living in 1780, and in the ſame ſtate.

† *Harleian* Miſcel. iv. 41. 55. See *London* Magazine, 1762, p. 340, in which is another inſtance of long abſtinence.

EVANS THE CONJURER.

I SHALL now mention another ſingular perſonage, but leſs innocent, a native of the ſame pariſh with *Mary Thomas*. This was the noted aſtrologer, and ill-favored knave, *Ariſe Evans*, a character and ſpecies of impoſtor frequent in the reigns of *Elizabeth* and *James* I. His figure is preſerved in the *Antiquarian Repertory*, and anſwers the deſcription given of him by his great pupil, *William Lilly*, of having a broad forehead, beetle-brows, thick ſhoulders, flat noſe, full lips, a down look, black curling ſtiff hair, and ſplay foot. He was a deep ſtudent in the *black art*; and *Lilly* aſſures us, that he had moſt *piercing judgement naturally upon a figure of theft*, and many other queſtions, he ever met withal; was well verſed in the *nature of ſpirits*; and had many times uſed the *circular way of invocating*. He then tells how his friend *Evans*, by means of the angel *Salmon*, brought to him a deed, which one of his cuſtomers had been wronged of, at the ſame time blowing down part of the houſe of the perſon in whoſe cuſtody it was: and again, how, to ſatisfy the curioſity of lord *Bothwel* and Sir *Kenelm Digby*, who wanted to ſee a ſpirit, he liked to have loſt his life, being carried over the *Thames*, and flung down near *Batterſea*, by the ſpirits, whom he had vexed at the time of invocation, for want of *making* * *a due fumigation*. Theſe ridiculous impoſtures were the faſhionable credulity of the times; and the greateſt men were the dupes of theſe pretenders to occult ſcience. To ſhew that *Wales* was fertile in geniuſes of every kind, we muſt lay clame to the celebrated doctor *John Dee*, or *Dû*, who

* In the life of *Benevuto Cellini*, is a moſt ridiculous tale of this nature.

was

was born at *Nant-y-Groes*, *Radnorſhire* †, and was ſought after by the greateſt princes in *Europe*. *Ben. Johnſon*, in his excellent comedy of *The Alchemyſt*, for a time, gave almoſt as fatal a blow to the black art, as *Quevedo* did in *Spain* to chivalry; but, ſince avarice and curioſity are paſſions moſt difficult of conqueſt, it roſe again with freſh vigor, and maintained its ground till the reſtoration ‡.

On my return to *Barmouth*, I proceeded for ſome time along the coaſt, among ſhifting ſands. Paſs near *Kail Wart*, by a ſtone, now ſerving as a foot bridge, on which was this inſcription: *Hic jacet* Calixtus *Monedo Regi*. There is no tradition of the place it was removed from.

Ascend from the coaſt to *Cors-y-gedol*, the antient ſeat of the *Vaughans*, where I was entertained by *William Vaughan*, eſquire, for ſome days, in the ſtyle of an antient baron. The woods near his houſe are extenſive, but affected by the weſt winds in a very ſurprizing manner: the tops are ſhorn quite even, and the boughs ſo interwoven, as to form ſeemingly a cloſe and almoſt impenetrable ſurface. Cors-y-Gedol.

There are few places which abound more in *Britiſh* antiquities, than the environs of *Cors-y-Gedol*. I firſt viſited *Craig y Dinas*, the ſummit of a hill, ſurrounded with a vaſt heap of ſtones, the ruins of a wall, which, in many parts, retain a regular and even facing: this, and ſome others ſimilar, are the firſt deviations from the rude ramparts of ſtone, and prior to the improvement of maſonry by the uſe of mortar. Into this Craig y Dinas.

† *J. D. Rhys Cambr. Brit.* Ling. Inſtitut. p. 60.
‡ See *Lilly*'s Life *paſſim*.

is

is an oblique entrance, with ſtone facings on both ſides; and near it are two ramparts of ſtones. The whole is on the ſteep extremity of the hill, near to which is a paſs into the country.

LLYN BODLYN. ABOUT a mile farther, is *Llyn Bodlyn*, a ſmall lake, beneath a lofty precipice, well ſtocked with char, which will take a bait, and afford good diverſion to the angler. *Llyn Cwm Howel* is another lake in this neighborhood, noted for a race of trouts (which I have ſeen) with moſt deformed heads, thick, flatted, and toad ſhaped; and which, probably, might give riſe to the fabled accounts of the monſtrous ſpecies recorded by *Giraldus*.

AFTER paſſing by *Llyn-Irddin*, a ſmall piece of water, on a plain, arrive amidſt a wondrous group of *Druidical* antiquities.

CIRCLES OF STONES. On the flat appear two circles. The firſt is about fifty-ſix feet in diameter, formed of piles of looſe ſtones, with upright columns, placed at five yards diſtance from each other, in pairs, ſo as nearly to divide the circle into four parts. About thirty yards from this, is a leſſer, with ſeveral upright ſtones among the ſmaller, but placed with leſs regularity. Deſign, not chance, certainly directed the founders of theſe circles in the diſpoſition of the columnar ſtones; but I fear, when I come to ſpeak more fully of them, the cauſe muſt remain unaccounted for, by reaſon of the remoteneſs of the time, and the myſtery of the antient prieſthood.

HALF a mile ſouth of theſe, on the ſide of a hill, are two carnedds, of a moſt ſtupendous ſize, containing an uncommon aſ-

CARNEDDEU HENGWM. ſemblage of druidical cuſtoms, or religion, in form of *Cromleh*, *Maen Hîr*, and *Kiſt Vaen*. Both are of an oblong form, and

compoſed of looſe ſtones: the largeſt is fifty-five feet long, and twelve high, in the middle. At the eaſt end is a great *Cromleh* altar, compoſed of two ſloping ſtones, one placed over the edge of the other, upon five flat upright ſtones, ſeven feet high in one part, and four feet ten in the loweſt. About eight yards from this, is the upper ſtone of a *Cromleh*, lying flat on the carnedd, without the appearance of any other ſupport.

ELEVEN yards farther, is another great heap of ſtones, and in it a large *Cromleh*, ſupported with upright ſtones. It is now converted into a retreat for a ſhepherd, who has placed ſtone ſeats within, and formed a chimney through the looſe ſtones above. In the ſame carnedd, a little farther on, is another magnificent *Cromleh*, whoſe incumbent ſtone is twelve feet by nine; four vaſt columns, or *maen hirion*, three now fallen, and a third erect. The columns are from the height of ten feet four, to that of twelve feet eight; and each between four and five feet broad.

NORTH-WEST of theſe antiquities, on the top of a hill, is a ſtrong poſt, called *Caſtell Dinas Cortin*, entrenched around; with an advanced work on one ſide. This, and *Caſtell Craig y Dinas*, were doubtleſsly formed as defences to the ſacred ground, the ſubject of the above deſcription. I may add likewiſe another object of protection, of the ſame nature, which I met with on my return to *Corſegedol*, two great *Carnedds*, placed on ſmall eminences, near to each other; and within one, the five ſquare flags of a *Kiſt vaen*, the top being deſtroyed. The place is moſt remarkable for the name, *Bryn Cornyn* JAU. The neighbors of this antiquity are fond of rendering

CASTELL DINAS CORTIN.

dering it, *The Hill of the Horns of* Jove. It more probably was a place of ſacrifice before or after the chace, and derived its title from the horned deity *Cernunnos*, who was venerated by the *Gauls*, and applied to as a protector from the dangers attendant on the diverſion †. Both the *Gauls* and *Britons* had one common religion; ſo that *Cernunnos* might as reaſonably be ſuppoſed to have a place here as in *France*.

Cernunnos.

Cromlechs.

This neighborhood alſo abounds with *Cromlechs* of very great ſize. I meaſured one, in a tenement called *Bryn-y-Voel*, which was ſixteen feet four inches long, ſeven feet four broad, and twenty inches thick. It lay about two feet above the ground, ſupported by ſmall ſtones, and was ſurrounded with a circle of looſe ſtones. Moſt of the *Cromlechs* of theſe parts lie very near to the ground, and in that reſpect differ from thoſe of other places. They lie likewiſe horizontally, which ſhews that their object was different, whatſoever it was.

Drws Ardudwy.

This country is in the hundred of *Ardudwy*. The entrance into it from *Trawsfynnydd* is called *Drws Ardudwy*, or the door of *Ardudwy*, formed by nature through the ſterile mountains, which ſeparate the places. I was tempted to viſit this noted paſs, and found the horror of it far exceeding the moſt gloomy idea that could be conceived of it. The ſides ſeemed to have been rent by ſome mighty convulſion into a thouſand precipices, forming at their tops rows of ſhelves, which the peaſants, comparing to the ranges in a dove cot, ſtyle *Carreg y Klommenod*, or the rock of the pigeons. The bottom of this paſſage is covered

† Religion de *Gaulois*, ii. * 85.

with a deluge of ſtones, which have ſtreamed from the ſides; and along it is a narrow horſe-path, on the ſlippery rock, formed by the removal of a few of the fragments, which, in other places, are diſpoſed into form of moſt ſteep and hazardous flights of ſteps: and yet, as if the natural and artificial difficulties of theſe ways were not ſufficient to terrify invaders, there are, in one place, the veſtiges of a wall, which went acroſs the paſs, in which might have been the door which gave name to it.

On my return, I viſited an ordinary houſe, called *Maes y Garnedd*, the birth-place of the regicide colonel *Jones*; whoſe inſolence to the neighboring gentry is ſtill ſpoken of, even to this day, with much warmth. Actuated by enthuſiaſm, he went every length that the congenial *Cromwell* dictated; and was a brave and ſucceſsful officer in a cauſe, which, after a certain period, was the reſult of ambition, and the foundation of tyranny.

From ſome of the adjacent heights of this ride, I had a full view beneath me (it being low water) of the long range of ſand and gravel, which runs from this coaſt twenty-two miles into the ſea. It is deſervedly called *Sarn Badrig*, or, more properly, *Bad-rhwyg*, or *Ship-breaking Cauſeway*, from the number of ſhips loſt upon it. This ſhoal is dry at the ebb of ſpring-tides, and marked in ſtorms by horrible breakers. Tradition ſays, that all this part of the ſea had been a habitable hundred, called *Cantrér Gwaelod*, or *The Lowland Hundred*; and that it was overwhelmed by the ſea, about the year 500, in the time of *Gwyddno Goronhir*. SARN BADRIG.

A similar accident happened, in ſome diſtant period, on the coaſt of *Eſſex*. The canons of *St. Paul* muſt be poſſeſſed of a

prebend, before they can become reſidentiaries; and the one uſually given is, *The Præbenda conſumpta per mare*, which lay on the coaſt of that county.

From *Corſegedol*, I purſued my journey towards *Harlech*; but, on the road, was tempted, by my conſtant fellow-traveller, the reverend Mr. *John Lloyd*, to make a ſmall deviation to the right, to viſit a near relation of his, who lived a few miles to our right, in his antient territories of *Cwm Bychan*. We approached it through *Glyn Artro*, a little valley, watered by a river of the ſame name, and prettily wooded. The view upwards was extremely picturesque, of a conic rock, ſkirted by a ſweet grove; and beyond ſoared the naked mountains, which bounded the object of our ride.

After paſſing through the wood, and aſcending *Dinas Porchellyn*, had before us a wild horizon of rocks and rocky mountains. Even theſe tracts, unfriendly as they ſeem to vegetation, had once been covered with venerable oaks; and there ſtill remained a few, between eight and nine feet in circumference. We went under their ſhade, above a rapid torrent, with a delightful view before us of a true *Alpine* wooden bridge, and a ſmall mill; and, a little farther, an antient arch, flung from rock to rock, giving paſſage over a ſtill and black water, ſhaded by trees. Ford the river again near *Llyn Sarph*, or *The Serpent's Hole*. Wind up a rocky ſtair-caſe road, and arrive full in ſight

Cwm Bychan. of *Cwm Bychan*, emboſomed with rocks of magnificent height. After a ſhort ride, high above a lake of the ſame name, deſcend, and reach the houſe of the venerable *Evan Llwyd*, who, with his anceſtors, boaſt of being lords of theſe rocks, at leſt ſince the

year 1100. This, and the fortified pafs of *Drws Ardudwy*, were moft probably occupied by the fons of *Cadwgan*, in their conteſts with the fons of *Uchtryd ap Edwyn*, whom they at laſt expelled the country.

The following, as it is the true deſcent of Mr. *Evan Llwyd*, and my fellow-traveller, who, being brother's children, are eighteenth in deſcent from *Blyddyn ap Cynvyn*, ſo it is a genuine copy of the form of a *Britiſh* pedegree:

Evan ap Edward, ap Richard, ap Edward, ap Humphrey, ap Edward, ap Dafydd, ap Robert, ap Howel, ap Dafydd, ap Meirig Llwyd o Nannau, ap Meirig Vychan, ap Ynyr Vychan, ap Ynyr, ap Meuric, ap Madog, ap Cadwgan, ap Bleddyn, ap Cynvyn, prince of *North Wales* and *Powys* *.

I was introduced to the worthy repreſentative of this long line, who gave me the moſt hoſpitable reception, and in the ſtyle of an antient *Briton*. He welcomed us with ale and potent beer, to waſh down the *Coch yr Wden*, or hung goat, and the cheeſe, compounded of the milk of cow and ſheep. He likewiſe ſhewed us the antient family cup, made of a bull's ſcrotum, in which large libations had been made in days of yore. The family lay in their whole ſtore of winter proviſions, being inacceſſible a great part of the ſeaſon, by reaſon of ſnow. Here they have lived for many generations, without bettering or leſſening their income; without noiſy fame, but without any of its embittering attendants.

* Numbers of reſpectable families in this country, are of the ſame deſcent.

Of this houſe was the valiant *Dai Llwyd*, to whom is ſaid to have been addreſſed the noted *Welſh* tune, *Ffarwel* Dai Llwyd, on occaſion of his going with *Jaſper Tudor* and *Owen Lawgoch*, to fight *Riſiart Frawdwr*, or *Richard the Traitor*, by which name the *Welſh* ſtigmatized *Richard* the Third.

The manſion is a true ſpecimen of an antient ſeat of a gentleman of *Wales*. The furniture rude: the moſt remarkable were the *Ciſtie Styffylog*, or the great oatmeal cheſts, which held the eſſential part of the proviſion.

The territories dependent on the manſion, extend about four miles each way, and conſiſt of a ſmall tract of meadow, a pretty lake ſwarming with trout, a little wood, and very much rock; but the whole forms a moſt auguſt ſcenery. The naked mountains envelope his vale and lake, like an immenſe theatre. The meadows are divided by a ſmall ſtream, and are bounded on one ſide by the lake; on the other, by his woods, which ſkirt the foot of the rocks, and through which the river runs, and beyond them tumbles from the heights, in a ſeries of cataracts. He keeps his whole territory in his own hands; but diſtributes his hinds among the *Havadwys*, or ſummer dairy-houſes, for the conveniency of attending his herds and flocks: he has fixed his heir on another part of his eſtates. His ambition once led him to attempt draining his lake, in order to extend his landed property; but, alas! he gained only a few acres of ruſhes and reeds; ſo wiſely bounded his deſires, and ſaved a beautiful piece of water. He found on one ſide a ſtratum of fine white earth, about half a yard thick, which I knew was what mineralogiſts dignify with the name of *Lac Lunæ*, and *Agaricus Mineralis*.

The

The *Germans* uſe it as an abſorbent in dyſenteries and malignant fevers *; and it would prove a good manure.

Stools and roots of firs, of vaſt ſize, are frequently found near the lake. Mr. *Llwyd* found one, with the marks of fire on it, which he uſed to repair the *Tyddyn y Traian*, or jointure-houſe of his family; an antient cuſtomary appendage to moſt of the *Welſh* houſes of any note.

Among the mountains which guard the *Cwm*, is one named *Carreg y Saeth*, on whoſe verge is a great *Maen Hîr*, and *Carnedd*. *Saeth* ſignifies an arrow; ſo probably the antient ſportſmen here took their ſtand, to watch the paſſing of the deer, which formerly abounded in theſe parts. Nor have they long been extinct; a perſon of the laſt generation informed my hoſt, that he had ſeen eighteen at once, grazing in the meadow.

The *Welſh* had ſeveral animals, which were the objects of the chace; ſuch as, *y Carw*, or the ſtag; *Kaid Wenyn*, a ſwarm of bees; and *y Gleiſiad*, or the ſalmon. *Yr Arth*, the bear; *y Dringhedydd*, climbing animals, I ſuppoſe wild cats, martins, and ſquirrels; and *Ceiliog Coed*, or cock of the wood. And the laſt diviſion was, *y Llwynog*, the fox; *Yſgyfarnog*, the hare; and *yr Yrwch*, the roe. Some of the above come very improperly under our idea of hunting, yet were comprehended in the code of laws relative to the diverſion, formed, as is ſuppoſed, by *Gryffyd ap Cynan* †. Antient Hunting.

I suspect alſo, that the otter was an object of diverſion; there-

* *Da Coſta*'s Foſſils, i. 83.

† *Lewis's Hiſt. Wales*, Introd. 56.

being

being a *Cylch Dyfrgwm*, or an annual payment, by the *Welſh*, for the prince's water dogs *.

The three firſt were *Helfa Gyffredyn*, or the common hunt. The ſtag, becauſe he was the nobleſt animal of chace; and becauſe every body, who came by at his death, before he was ſkinned, might clame a ſhare in him. The next animals were, *Helfa Gyfarthfa*, or the animals which could be brought to bay, ſuch as the bear, &c. which were hunted with hounds till they aſcended a tree. The bird mentioned here, is the cock of the wood, whoſe nature it is to ſit perched on a bough, where they will gaze till they are ſhot, as they were, in old times, by the bow, or croſs-bow.

The third diviſion was *Helfa Ddolef*, or the ſhouting chace, becauſe attended by the clamor of the ſportſmen; and comprehended the fox, the hare, and the roe. The method of hunting was either with hounds, or grehounds, which they let ſlip at the animals, holding the dogs in leaſhes. No one was to ſlip his grehound when the hounds were in chace, unleſs he had a hound in the pack, on penalty of having the grehound ham-ſtrung: neither was it allowed to kill any animal of chace on its form, or at reſt, on pain of forfeiting his bow and arrow to the lord of the manor. When ſeveral grehounds, the property of different perſons, were ſlipt at any animal, the perſon whoſe dog was neareſt the beaſt, when laſt in ſight, clamed the ſkin. A bitch was excepted, unleſs it was proved ſhe was pregnant by a dog which had before won a ſkin.

* Record of *Caernarvon*, *Harl.* MSS.

Every

EVERY perſon who carries a horn, muſt give a ſcientifical account of the nine objects of chace, or elſe he will be looked on as a pretender, and forfeit his horn. The ſame penalty attends the *Cynllafan*, or leaſh; he is never again to wear it round his middle, on pain of forfeiture; but then he is ſuffered to wear it round his arm.

THE antient *Welſh* held the fleſh of the ſtag, hare, wild boar, and the bear, to be the greateſt delicacies among the beaſts of chace.

THE prince had his *Pencynwydd*, or chief huntſman. He was the tenth officer of the court. He had for his own ſupper one diſh of meat; and after it, three horns of mead, one from the king, another from the queen, the third from the ſteward of the houſhold. He was never to ſwear, but by his horn and his leaſh. He had the third of the fines and heriots of all the other huntſmen; and likewiſe the ſame ſhare of the *amobr*, on the marriage of any of their daughters. At a certain time of the year, he was to hunt for the king only: at other ſeaſons, he was permitted to hunt for himſelf. His horn was that of an ox, of a pound value. He had in winter an ox's hide, to make leaſhes; in ſummer, a cow's, to cut into ſpatterdaſhes.

THE king had liberty of hunting whereſoever he pleaſed; but if a beaſt was hunted and killed on any gentleman's eſtate, and not followed and clamed by the huntſman that night, the owner of the land might convert it to his own uſe, but was to take good care of the dogs, and preſerve the ſkin.

THE penalty of killing a tame ſtag of the king's, was a pound; and a certain fine, if it was a wild one, if it was killed between

a certain

a certain day in *November* and the feaſt of *St. John*, the value was ſixty pence; but the fine for killing it, a hundred and eighty pence. A ſtag was alſo reckoned equivalent to an ox; a hind to a well grown cow; a roe to a goat; a wild ſow to a tame ſow; a badger had no value, becauſe in ſome years it was meaſled; wolves and foxes, and other noxious animals, had no value, becauſe every body was allowed to kill them; and there was none ſet upon a hare, for a very ſingular reaſon, becauſe it was believed every other month to change its ſex *.

HARLECH. FROM *Cwm Bychan*, took the road to *Harlech*, a ſmall and very poor town, remarkable only for its caſtle, which is ſeated on a lofty rock, facing the *Iriſh* ſea, above an extenſive marſh, once occupied by the water. This fortreſs was antiently called *Twr Bronwen*, from *Bronwen* or *The White-necked*, ſiſter to *Bran ap Llŷr*, king of *Britain*. In after-times, it got the name of *Caer Collwyn*, from *Collwyn ap Tango*, one of the fifteen tribes of *North Wales*, and lord of *Eſionydd*, *Ardudwy*, and part of *Llŷn*. His grandchildren flouriſhed in the reign of *Gryffydd ap Cynan*. He reſided ſome time in a ſquare tower in the antient fortreſs, whoſe remains are very apparent; as are part of the old walls, which the more modern, in certain places, are ſeen to reſt on.

THE preſent caſtle was the work of *Edward* I. is a noble ſquare building, with a round tower at each corner, and one on each ſide the entrance, with elegant turrets iſſuing out of the great rounders, like thoſe of his other caſtles of *Caernarvon* and *Conway*. It was completed before the year 1283: at leſt, I then

* See *Leges Wallicæ*, xxxix. 256 to 260.

find,

find, that a hundred pounds was the annual ſalary of *Hugh de Wlonkeſlow*, the conſtable *; but it was afterwards reduced; for it appears, that the annual fee was only twenty-ſix pounds thirteen ſhillings and four pence, and in ſome accounts fifty pounds, which was ſuppoſed to be for both conſtable and captain of the town. The whole garriſon, at the ſame time, was twenty ſoldiers, whoſe annual pay amounted to a hundred and forty pounds †. The preſent conſtable is *Evan Lloyd Vaughan*, eſq; with a ſalary of fifty pounds a year, payable out of the revenues of *North Wales*. It was impregnable on the ſide next to the ſea: on the other, it was protected by a prodigious foſs, cut with vaſt expence and trouble in the hard rock.

BESIEGED IN 1468.

THIS place was poſſeſſed, in 1468, by *Dafydd ap Jevan ap Einion*, a ſtrong friend of the houſe of *Lancaſter*, and diſtinguiſhed as much by his valour, as his goodly perſonage, and great ſtature ‡. He was beſieged here by *William Herbert*, earl of *Pembroke*, after a march through the heart of our *Alps*, attended with incredible difficulties; for in ſome parts, the ſoldiers were obliged to climb; in others, to precipitate themſelves down the rocks §; and at length inveſted a place, till that time deemed impregnable. *Pembroke* committed the care of the ſiege to his brother, Sir *Richard*, a hero equal in ſize and proweſs to the *Britiſh* commandant. Sir *Richard* ſent a ſummons of ſurrender; but *Dafydd* ſtoutly anſwered, that he had kept a caſtle in *France*

* *Ayloff's Welſh Calendar*, 92.
† *Dodderidge*, 58.
‡ *Gwedir Family*, 77.
§ *Cambden*, ii. The road is to this day called *Lle Herbert*.

ſo long, that he made all the old women in *Wales* talk of him; and that he would keep this ſo long, that all the old women in *France* ſhould talk of him. Famine probably ſubdued him: he yielded on honorable terms, and *Richard* engaged to ſave his life, by interceding with his cruel maſter, *Edward* IV. The king at firſt refuſed his requeſt; when *Herbert* told him plainly, that his highneſs might take his life, inſtead of that of the *Welch* captain; or that he would aſſuredly replace *Dafydd* in the caſtle, and the king might ſend whom he pleaſed to take him out again. This prevaled; but Sir *Richard* received no other reward for his ſervice *.

Margaret of Anjou, the faithful and ſpirited queen of the meek *Henry* VI. found in this caſtle, in 1460, an aſylum, after the unfortunate battle of *Northampton*. She firſt fled to *Coventry*, and from thence retired to this fortreſs †: after a ſhort ſtay here, ſhe went to *Scotland*, and, collecting her friends in the north of *England*, poured all her vengeance on her great enemy, the duke of *York*, at the battle of *Wakefield*.

AND IN 1647. THE place more than once changed maſters, during the laſt civil wars. It was well defended by major *Hugh Pennant*, till he was deſerted by his men. It was finally taken, in *March* 1647, by general *Mytton*, when Mr. *William Owen* was governor, and the whole garriſon conſiſted but of twenty-eight men. It had the honor of ſurrendering on articles, and of being the laſt in *North Wales* which held out for the king.

* Life of lord *Herbert*, 7, 8.

† *Carte*, ii. 757.

‡ *Whitelock*, 242.

Torques.

Edward I. formed the town into a borough, and conferred on it grants of certain lands, and other emoluments.

NEAR this place was found the celebrated piece of antiquity *, on which the learned have thought fit to beſtow the name of *Torques*. It is well deſcribed in *Cambden*, as a wreathed rod of gold, about four feet long, with three ſpiral furrows, with ſharp intervening ridges running its whole length to the ends, which are plain truncated, and turn back like pot-hooks. Whether this was purely *Roman*, or whether it might not have been common to both nations, I will not diſpute. The uſe was that of a baldric, to ſuſpend gracefully the quiver of men of rank, which hung behind by means of the hook, and the golden wreath croſſed the breaſt, and paſſed over the ſhoulder. *Virgil*, in his beautiful deſcription of the exerciſes of the *Trojan* youth, expreſſes the manner in theſe frequently miſconſtrued lines: TORQUES.

Cornea bina ferunt præfixo haſtilia ferro:
Pars læves numero pharetras, it pectore ſummo,
Flexilis obtorti per collum circulus auri.

Each brandiſhing aloft a cornel ſpear.
Some on their backs their burniſh'd quivers bore,
Hanging from wreaths of gold, which ſhone before †.

THE *Torch*, or *Torques*, worn by the *Gauls* and *Britons*, was a very different affair, a collar of gold, or other metal, worn round the neck. Our heroine *Boadicia* had a great one of that precious

* In poſſeſſion of Sir *Roger Moſtyn*.
† A little altered from the tranſlation in *Cambden*, ii. 788.

metal; and *Virdomarus* wore round his neck another, faſtened behind with hooks, which fell off when the conqueror cut off his head.

> Illi virgatis jaculanti ex agmine braccis
> Torquis ab inciſâ decidit unca gula *.

Manlius acquired the addition of *Torquatus*, from a *Torques* which he won from a *Gaul*, whom he ſlew in ſingle combat, in ſight of the army; and *Publius Cornelius*, after his ſlaughter of the *Boii*, took, among other ſpoils, not fewer than four thouſand and ſeventy golden *Torques* †.

They were alſo in uſe among the *Romans*, who beſtowed them as military rewards; and, as *Pliny* pretends, the golden on the auxiliaries, the ſilver on the citizens ‡. They probably were made in ſeveral ways: I have ſeen a very beautiful one (I think at preſent in poſſeſſion of the reverend Mr. *Preſcot*, of *Cambridge*) compoſed of ſeveral links of ſilver wire, moſt elegantly twiſted together: it was long enough to go twice round the neck, and had claſps, which faſtened it on.

The cuſtom of wearing the *Torques* was continued from the more remote periods of *Britain*, to later times. *Llewelyn*, a a lord of *Yale*, was called *Llewelyn aur Dorchog*, *Llewelyn* with the golden torques, on that account; and the common proverb, *Mi a dynna'r dorch a chwi*, I will pluck the torques with you,

* *Propertius*, lib. iv. eleg.
† *Livij*, lib. xxxvi. c. 40.
‡ *Plin.* lib. xxxiii. c. 2.

ſignifies

ſignifies, to this day, a hard ſtruggle of a perſon before he would yield a victory.

FROM *Harlech* I aſcended a very ſteep hill, and on my way obſerve ſeveral *maen hirion*, and circles formed of large common pebble-ſtones, and of different diameters; ſometimes appears circle within circle; in other places, they interſect each other. I ſhould have doubted whether they had not been the foundations of *Cytti'er Gwyddelod*, or the cottages of the wood rangers, a ſort of temporary hovels, erected for the purpoſes of hunting, by our remoteſt anceſtors *, had it not been for their interſections. The learned *Borlaſe* gives inſtances of ſuch, in the circles of *Botallek* †, which he ſuppoſes to have been formed for religious ceremonies; and that one rite might have been performed in one particular circle, and another again in a compartment allotted for it by the ſuperſtition of *Druidiſm*. Cluſters of circles were not peculiar to our iſland: baron *Dahlberg* ‡ has given a plate of ſimilar aſſemblages, near the town of *Wexio*, in *Smaland*, in *Sweden*, which are on a flat, at the foot of a vaſt ſepulchral *tumulus*, with a high column, and great globe of ſtone on the ſummit. Some columnar ſtones, or *maen hirion*, appear in the ranges of ſtones compoſing the circles.

CYTTI'ER GWYDDELOD.

THE *tumulus* is called that of king *Ingo*: but ſince the three monarchs of that name were ſaid to have been ſteady chriſtians, and to have lived in the eleventh century, I do gueſs both tu-

* *Mona Antiqua.*

† *Antiq. Cornwal,* 188. tab. xiv.

‡ *Suecia Antiqua,* &c. tab. 322.

mulus

mulus and circles to have been of earlier date, and formed in honor of ſome pagan potentate; for the northern *chriſtendoms old* *, or æra of chriſtianity, aboliſhed all ſuch cuſtoms.

I MUST obſerve, that this place is called *Bon-leff Hîr*, or the loud ſhout or *cry to battle*. Poſſibly it had been a field of combat, and a chieftain had fell here, for one of the *maen hirion* is of a diſtinguiſhed ſize.

GLYN. FROM hence the road is intolerably bad and ſtoney, till I reached *Glyn*, a houſe of my kinſman, *Robert Godolphin Owen*, eſq; ſeated in a romantic bottom, well wooded. This had been the reſidence of the antient family of the *Wynnes*, from whom it paſſed to the *Owens*, by the marriage of Sir *Robert* with the heireſs of the place, in the laſt century.

LLAN-TEGWIN. PASS by the village of *Llan Tegwyn*, and near a ſmall lake, filled with that beautiful aquatic, the *Water Lilly*. Somewhat farther is *Llyn-Tegwyn*, which well merits the name of *Fair and Lovely*, a lake about a mile round, whoſe waters are of a cryſtalline clearneſs; its margin full; its boundaries neat and clean. The narrow path we rode on, impends over it, and is cut out of a hill, whoſe ſides are compoſed of ſhivering ſlate, ſtarting out at an immenſe height above, threatening deſtruction: they were much enlivened by flocks of milk-white goats, which ſkiped along the points, and looked down on us with much unconcern.

FROM one of the heights, a vaſt *Alpine* proſpect appears in view. The ſtupendous mountains of *Caernarvonſhire*, and thoſe

* *Wormii Mon. Dan.* 4.

of

of *Merioneddſhire*, not much inferior, form a tremendous ſcenery, and riſe divided into a multitude of craggy heads. The laſt are particularly barren, and appear quite naked, excepting where varied by a moſſy verdure, or whitened by the *lichen tartaricus*. The higheſt ſummit of *Snowdon*, called *y Wyddfa*, ſoars pre-eminent. From thence, the mountains gradually lower, to *Lleyn*, which ſtretches in view far to the weſt, and terminates on the point of *Aberdaron*. Deſcend into a deep glen, cloathed on each ſide with trees, with the *Velyn-Rhyd*, or *Yellow Ford*, at bottom; notwithſtanding its name, a moſt inky ſtream; the fine cataract a little above, being moſt fitly ſtyled *Rhaiader-Du*, or *The Black*.

VELYN RHYD.

AFTER a ſhort ride, reach the village and chapel of *Maen Twrog*, dependent on the church of *Feſtiniog*. Near one end is a great upright ſtone, from which it takes the name. This ſtone is taken into the *Welſh* calendar, canonized by the name of *St. Twrog*. The place lies in the *Tempe* of this country, the vale of *Tan y Bwlch*, a narrow, but beautiful tract, about three or four miles long, divided by the ſmall river *Dwy'ryd*, or *The Two Fords*, being formed by the *Cynfael* and another ſtream, which unite towards the upper ends. The vale is compoſed of rich meadows; the ſides edged with groves; and barren precipitous mountains cloſe this gem, as it were, in a rugged caſe. Here is a very neat ſmall inn, for the reception of travellers, who ought to think themſelves much indebted to a nobleman *, for the great improvement it received from his munificence.

TAN Y BWLCH.

* The preſent earl of *Radnor*.

ABOVE

ABOVE it is a houſe, emboſomed with woods, moſt charmingly ſituated on the ſide of the hill. This ſeat, from the quick ſucceſſion of owners by the fatal attachment to the bottle, has occaſioned many a moral reflection from the *Engliſh* traveller. "A heavy glutinous ale has charms enough to debauch the "ſenſes of the whole principality;" and, let me add, after a certain ſtage, the fiery dram is called in, to effect the deſtruction the former had begun; yet I truſt that its charms do not faſcinate the ſenſes of the WHOLE principality; but that, after a fair ſcrutiny, there may be found ſome corner free from the *Bacchanalian* rout.

THE river hereabouts widens into a good ſalmon fiſhery; and, after ſome ſpace, falls into an arm of the ſea, called *Traeth Bach*, or the little ſands.

FALLS OF THE CYNFAEL.

RIDE up the vale, and diſmounting, meet the courſe of the *Cynfael*, which tumbles along the bottom of a deep time-worn chaſm, ſided with ſharp and rugged rocks for a very conſiderable ſpace, darkened by trees that overſpread the whole, iſſuing both from the ſides and margin. Near *Feſtiniog* is one caſcade, remarkably fine, conſiſting of three great falls, the loweſt dropping into a deep pool, black, and over-ſhadowed by far impending rocks. Below, is a magnificent columnar rock, riſing out of the torrent, and called *Pulpit Hugh Llwyd Cynfael*. *Hugh* lived in the time of *James* I. was ſuppoſed to have been a magician, and from thence to have delivered his nocturnal incantations; a place, fit indeed for the purpoſe as the pit of *Acheron*.

ABOUT a mile from the *Cynfael*, is another comfortable inn, which has often received me, after my toilſome expeditions.

Oppoſite

CWMORTHIN.

Oppoſite to it lies *Cwm Cwmorthin*; a retreat much more ſequeſtered, and much more difficult of acceſs, than even *Cwm-bychan*. In my viſit to it, I deſcended through woods, along a ſteep road, into a very deep, but narrow valley, which I croſſed, and began a very hazardous and fatiguing aſcent up the rocky front of a lofty mountain: the path narrow and dangerous, and, I believe, very rarely attempted by horſes. After the labor of a mile, reached this ſtrange habitation of two farmers, in a hollow ſurrounded on three parts by the rudeſt of environs, and containing a pretty lake, and two tenements, which yield only graſs; ſo that, in caſe the inhabitants have any other wants, they muſt deſcend from their *Cwm* to get them ſupplied. The mountains which incloſe it, are the *Moel-wyn yr Hydd*, and the *Moel-wyn Gwyn*, and others equally rude. High in the firſt is the lake *Du-bach*, which affords perch; and another, called *Llyn Trwſtyllon*; and oppoſite to the laſt, a third, called *Llyn Conglog*; all of which, after hard rains, form noble cataracts down the fronts of the hills. We preferred another way out of this ſingular place, and wound up a narrow path at the fartheſt end, on part of *Molwyn y Hydd*, in order to deſcend through *Cwm Croeſor*; being then deſirous of getting by the neareſt road to *Pont Aber Glâs Llyn*. But in our deſcent we met with ſuch narrowneſs of path, ſuch ſhort turnings, and horrible precipices, that our poor beaſts, with much reaſon, trembled in every limb; and, in fact, had a wonderful eſcape in getting ſafe to the bottom. The traveller who chuſes to follow our ſteps, will find a narrow graſſy bottom in *Cwm Croeſor*, with a few tenements: he will paſs through a

pretty wood, and ſoon after find himſelf on the high road from *Tan y Bwlch* to *Caernarvon*.

In this journey, I went from *Feſtiniog* on a leſs hazardous way. Not two miles from thence, on the road from *Trawsfynnydd* to *Yſpytty*, I fell again into *Fford Helen*, which is here quite bare, and exhibits the rude ſtones with which it was made.

BEDDAU GWYR ARDUDWY.

Near it, at *Rhyd yr Halen*, on the right, are the remains of *Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy*, or the graves of the men of *Ardudwy*. Theſe graves were about ſix feet long, marked at each end by two upright ſtones; but moſt of the ſtones are now removed. There are yet to be ſeen ſeveral circles of ſtones, the largeſt about fifty-two feet in diameter; a vaſt carnedd, with two upright ſtones placed on one part, as if to mark the entrance to the cell, which it probably incloſes; and near it a leſſer heap, and a ſmall circle; all of which had been ſurrounded with a larger circle, now incomplete by the application of the materials to the making of walls. The tradition relating to theſe monuments, is claſſical; nearly parallel with the rape of the *Sabines*. The men of *Ardudwy*, to populate their country, made an inroad into the vale of *Clwyd*, and layed violent hands on the fair ladies of the land: they carried them in ſafety to this place, where they were overtaken by the warriors of the vale: a fierce battle enſued, and the men of *Ardudwy* all ſlain; but the raviſhers had ſome how or other ſo gained the hearts of their fair prey, that, on their defeat, the ladies, rather than return home, ruſhed into an adjacent water, called, from the event, *Llyn y Morwynion*, or *The Maiden's Lake*, and there periſhed. That this had been the

ſcene

of a bloody conflict, there is a probability: the graves and dds prove it; and the circles evince, that it was in the time the ceremonies of druidism existed.

om hence I descended the long and tedious steep of *Bwlch y Frân*, into the narrow vale of *Penmachno*; and, after ing another hill, turn to the right into the black and moory ains, to visit *Llyn Conwy*, the source of the noted river of me. It is a very large piece of water, most dismally si- among rock and bog, and the sides very irregularly in- dented. It is placed the highest of any large piece of water I have met with in these parts. In it are three islands, one of which is the haunt of the black-back Gulls, during the breeding season. They are so exceedingly fierce in the defence of their young, that I knew of a man who was nearly drowned, in an attempt to swim to their nests, being so violently beaten by the old birds, that he thought he escaped well, with the dreadful bruises he received on all the upper part of his body. The water issues out of the end of the lake, in form of a little rill; but in the course of a few miles, before it reaches *Llanrwst*, becomes a most considerable river, by the addition of the various mountain streams.

LLYN CONWY.

DESCEND for two or three miles, and reach the village of *Yspytty Jevan*, or the hospital of *St. John* of *Jerusalem*; so styled from its having formed, in the then inhospitable country, an asylum and guard for travellers, under the protection of the knights who held the manor, and made its precincts a sanctuary. After the abolition of the order, this privelege became the bane of the neighborhood; for the place, thus exempted from

YSPYTTY.

all juriſdiction, was converted into a den of thieves and murderers, who ravaged the country far and wide with impunity, till the reign of *Henry* VII. when they were extirpated by the bravery and prudence of *Meredydd ap Evan*.

AFTER a very long interval, another charity ſucceeded, in the alms-houſes for ſix poor men, founded in 1600, by captain *Richard Vaughan*, a poor knight of *Windſor*, and deſcended from the neighboring houſe of *Pant Glâs*.

TOMBS. IN the church are three alabaſter figures. The firſt is the valiant *Rhys Vawr ap Meredydd*, of the houſe of *Plâs Yolyn*; to whom, at the battle of *Boſworth*, *Henry* VII. entruſted the ſtandard of *England*, after the bearer, Sir *William Brandon*, was ſlain by *Richard*: a proper reſpect to the *Welſh*, who ſo highly favored the *Lancaſtrian* cauſe. The next is an eccleſiaſtic, his ſon, *Robert ap Rhys*, croſs-bearer and chaplain to cardinal *Wolſey*: and the third *Lowry*, the wife of the great *Rhys*. I may add, that he left ſeveral ſons, from whom were deſcended many families, particularly thoſe of *Rhiwlas*, *Pant Glâs*, *Giler*, and *Voelas*.

VOELAS. FROM *Yſpytty* I made an excurſion to *Voelâs*, about two miles diſtant, remarkable for a great column, with an inſcription in memory of *Llewelyn*, prince of *Wales*, who was ſlain in the year 1021. Here is likewiſe a vaſt artificial mount, the ſite of a *Welſh* caſtelet, deſtroyed by *Llewelyn* the Great *. Mr. *Llwyd* confeſſes the inſcription to be very obſcure. It is part in

* See the Poem addreſſed to him by *Llywarch Brydydd y Moch*, in *Evans's* Coll. *Awdl.* vii.

Latin,

Latin, part in *Welſh*. The laſt line ſays, *Levelinus optimus princeps hic humatus*; which, if meant of any of the actual princes of *Wales*, muſt intend *Llewelyn ap Sitſyllt*; he being the only one of the three of the name of *Llewelyn*, of whoſe place of interment we are ignorant *.

TURN back, and again reach the river *Conway*. Enter

CAERNARVONSHIRE,

RHAIADER Y GRAIG LLWYD.

And, after a ſhort ride, arrive at its celebrated falls, not very far from its junction with the *Machno*. The proſpect is very extraordinary, from the neighborhood of a fulling mill, where the channel of the rivers form a triangle of deep and doleful chaſms, worn by the water through the live rock. Not far below, begins the cataract, the moſt tremendous I ever ſaw, and whoſe roaring gives ſufficient notice of its vicinity. The rocks which bound it are of a vaſt height, and approach very near to each other, and want the pleaſing *accompaniment* of trees, attendant on moſt of our caſcades. One fall is of very great height; and beneath that, full in view, is a ſucceſſion of four leſſer. The deſcent is ſteep and dangerous, and not to be attempted but by thoſe who have ſtrength of body, and ſteadineſs of head. When down, I found myſelf environed with naked precipices, faced with angular columnar rocks, pointing in a ſloping direction towards the river, adding to the ſtrangeneſs of the ſcenery.

DESCEND a ſteep hill, and arrive in *Nant Conwy*, or the vale of *Conwy*, after paſſing over *Pont-or-Lleder*; beneath which, the

* *Cambden*, ii. 816.

river

river *Lleder* haſtens to join that which gives name to the valley. Obſerve, in the courſe of the *Conwy*, a deep, wide, and ſtill water, called *Llyn yr Afangc*, or *The Beavers Pool*, from being, in old times, the haunt of thoſe animals. Our anceſtors alſo called them, with great propriety, *Lloſt-Lydan*, or the broad-tailed animal. Their ſkin was in ſuch eſteem, as to be valued at a hundred and twenty pence; while that of the martin took no more than twenty-four pence; an ermine, twelve; an otter, wolf, or fox, only twelve *. They ſeem to have been the chief finery and luxury of the days of *Hoel Dda*.

BEAVERS.

THE vale gradually expands from this end, and extends about twenty miles, terminating at the town of *Conway*. It ſoon widens to about a mile in breadth, and improves in beauty, eſpecially in the neighborhood of *Llanrwſt*, where it is divided into the moſt beautiful meadows. The ſides of the hills finely cultivated: on the weſtern, the vaſt mountains of *Snowdon* riſe in a majeſtic range. The eaſtern conſiſts of low and broken hills, chequered with rich paſturage, corn fields, and groves. The river meanders through the whole, and before it reaches *Llanrwſt*, is of a conſiderable ſize.

BETTWS WYRION.

VISIT the church of *Bettws Wyrion Iddon*, or the bead-houſe of the gran-children of *Iddon*. Within is the figure of *Gruffydd ap Dafydd Goch*, ſon to *Dafydd Goch*, natural ſon of *Dafydd*, brother to the laſt prince of *Wales*. He is in armour, recumbent, with this inſcription: *Hic jacet Grufud ap Dəvyd Goch, agnus* DEI *miſere mei.*

* *Leges Wallicæ*, 260. 261.

A LITTLE

Moses Griffiths del: *Peter Mazell Sculp*

DOLWYDDELAN CASTLE.

PONT Y PAIR.

A LITTLE farther, paſs by *Pont y Pair*, a moſt ſingular bridge, flung over the *Llugwy*, conſiſting of five arches, placed on the rude rocks, which form moſt durable piers. Theſe rocks are precipitous, and in high floods exhibit to the paſſenger moſt awful cataracts below the bridge. The ſcenery beyond, of rocky mountains, fringed with woods, is very ſtriking.

THIS bridge was built on the following occaſion: One *Howel*, a maſon from *Penllyn*, having occaſion, about the year 1468, to attend the *Merionethſhire* aſſizes, then held at *Conway*, had his paſſage over the *Lleder* obſtructed by floods. This determined him to remove to the ſpot, where he built a bridge, at his own expence, and received no other gratuity than what reſulted from the ſpontaneous generoſity of paſſengers. He afterwards moved to the *Llugwy*, and began that of *Pont y Pair*, but died before he completed his work *.

DOLWYDDELAN CASTLE.

I SOON left the bridge, and, after a ſteep aſcent, arrive at *Dolwyddelan* caſtle, ſeated in a rocky valley, ſprinkled over with ſtunted trees, and watered by the *Lleder*. The boundaries are rude and barren mountains; and, among others, the great bending mountain *Scabod*, often conſpicuous from moſt diſtant places.

The caſtle is placed on a high rock, precipitous on one ſide, and inſulated: it conſiſts of two ſquare towers; one forty feet by twenty-five; the other thirty-one by twenty. Each had for-

* *Llwyd's Itin.* MS. i. The ſame authority ſays, that near this place is a great Cromleh, called *Cromleh Hwva*, ſo named from one *Hwva ap Kyfnerth*, at *Rhyddon*, who concealed himſelf under it, when the earl of *Pembroke* deſolated theſe parts.

merly three floors. The materials of this fortreſs are the ſhattery ſtone of the country; yet well ſquared, the maſonry good, and the mortar hard. The caſtle-yard lay between the towers.

This had been founded by ſome of our princes; but we are ignorant of its origin. There were very few caſtles in *North Wales*, before its conqueſt by the *Engliſh*. They were needleſs; for Nature created in our rocks and mountains, fortifications (untill our fatal diviſions) quite impregnable. Had there been occaſion for artificial retreats, the wealth of our country could readily have ſupplied the means of erecting them. We had the balance of trade in our favor. This prevented our princes from ever making uſe of their third prerogative, that of coining *. Our herds and flocks were the frequent reſource of the *Engliſh*, and brought large ſums into *Wales*. Witneſs the large ſums of money we too frequently were obliged to pay, as purchaſers of diſgraceful peace. Beſides, caſh was far from being requiſite, ſince, by our laws, every ſubject was bound to aſſiſt in building the royal caſtles, excepting the huſbandmen belonging to the king †.

Jorwerth Drwndwn made this place his reſidence; and here is ſaid to have been born his ſon, *Llewelyn the Great* ‡, who began his reign in the time of *Richard* I. If *Dolinchalan* caſtle is, as I

* Tertium eſt, jus leges condendi, et MONETAM PERCUTIENDI. *Wotton's Leges Wallicæ*, 71.

† *Leges Wallicæ*, 165.

‡ *Gwedir Fam.* 7.

ſuppoſe,

ſuppoſe, the ſame with this, *Gryffydd ap Tudor*, in the reign of *Edward* I. had a fee of fifteen pounds as conſtable *.

Meredydd ap Jevan, an anceſtor of the *Wynnes*, of *Gwedir*, in the reign of *Henry* VII. purchaſed the leaſe of this caſtle, and the incloſures belonging to it, from the executors of Sir *Ralph Berkenet*; it having been excepted among the places granted by *Richard* III. and reſumed by his ſucceſſor †. Before that time, *Hoel ap Evan ap Rhys Gethin*, a noted outlaw, reſided here. As ſoon as it came into poſſeſſion of *Meredydd*, he removed his habitation in *Evionedd*, a hundred in the county, to this caſtle; giving this excellent reaſon: "I had rather fight with outlaws and "thieves, than with my own blood and kindred: if I live in my "own houſe in *Evionedd*, I muſt either kill mine own kinſmen, "or be killed by them!" The feuds among the gentry in *Evionedd*, occaſioned perpetual murders; and *Nant-Conwy* was filled with *banditti*.

This gentleman ſoon reformed the country: he eſtabliſhed colonies of the *moſt tall and able men* he could procure; till at laſt they amounted to ſeven ſcore tall bowmen, every one arrayed in a "jacket or armolet coate, a good ſteele cap, a ſhort ſword and "dagger, together with his bow and arrowes; many of them "alſoe had horſes and chaſing ſlaves, which were ready to anſwer "the crie on all occaſions ‡."

* *Rotulæ Walliæ*, 97.

† *Gwedir Family*, 137; a publication we are indebted for, to my reſpected friend, the honorable Daines Barrington.

‡ The ſame.

PENAMNAEN.

HE founded the ſtrong houſe of *Penamnaen*, a mile diſtant from the caſtle. He removed the church, which before lay in a thicket, to a more open place, by way of ſecurity; for he never dared to quit his houſe, without leaving in it a ſtrong guard; and another of twenty tall archers to attend him, whenever he went to church; beſides a watchman, on a rock called *Carreg y Big*, to give notice of the approach of the *banditti*. He ended his uſeful life in 1525, and left behind him twenty-three legitimate, and three natural children.

THE church had been an impropriation of the abby of *Beddkelert*; is very ſmall; and has in it a monument, commemorating ſuch of the family who were buried here *.

IN my return to *Pont y Pair*, digreſſed a little up the river *Llugwy*, to ſee a noted caſcade, called *Rhaiader y Wenol*, or *The Water-fall of the Swallow*. The river runs along a ſtrait ſtony channel, for a conſiderable way, amidſt narrow meadows, bounded by majeſtic *Alpine* ſcenery; then falls into an amazing hollow. The bottom is difficult of acceſs; but when arrived at, exhibits a wonderful ſcene of mountain and precipice, ſhaded with trees, which fringe the top, and ſtart even from the fiſſures of the ſides.

CARREG Y GWALCH.

CROSS *Pont y Pair*, and go beneath a very lofty rock, cloathed with wood, called *Carreg y Gwalch*, or *The Rock of the Falcon*. Here was the retreat of a famous partizan of the houſe of *Lancaſter*, called *Dafydd ap Shenkin*, who lurked in a cave, ſtill named, from him, *Ogo Davyd ap Shenkin*. The nobleſt oaks in

* It is a pedegree of the *Wynnes*. See Appendix.

all *Wales* grew on this rock, within memory of man. I remember the ſtools of ſeveral, which proved that they were equal to any which grow in the deepeſt ſoil; yet theſe rocks are totally deſtitute of all earth for a conſiderable way, ſo that the nutriment which the oaks received, muſt have been derived from the deep penetration of the roots, through the fiſſures of the ſtones, into ſome nutritive matter.

GWEDIR.

THE antient houſe of *Gwedir* ſtands near the foot of this rock. It is built round a greater and leſſer court. Over the gate-way is the date, 1558, with I. W. *John Wynne ap Meredydd*, gran-father to the famous Sir *John*, author of the memoirs of the family. This ſhews 1553, the ſuppoſed time of the death of the former, to be a miſtake. The place takes its name from *Gwaed-dir*, the bloody land, from the battles fought here by *Llywarch Hên* *, about the year 610; or perhaps from the cruel battle in 952, between the ſons of *Hoel*, and the princes *Jevaf* and *Iago* †; and a third may be added, between *Gryffydd ap Cynan*, and *Trahaern ap Cradog*, equally bloody ‡. The ſuppoſition that it was derived from its being the firſt houſe in *Wales* which had *glaſs windows*, is not well founded, thoſe conveniencies having been known long before. Sir *John Wynne* himſelf even mentions a date of 1512, on a window at *Dolwyddelan*, which is long before the building of *Gwedir*. But the following lines of a poet, who flouriſhed ſome centuries before, is ſtill a ſtronger proof of the antiquity of glaſs in our country:

* See his Works.
† *Powel*, 60.
‡ *Vide* his Life.

Trwy ffeneſtri *Gwydir* yd ym gwelent *.

They ſee me through the glaſs windows.

On a rock, high above the *Lower Gwedir*, ſtood another, called *The Upper*, ſeemingly built for the enjoyment of the beautiful view it commands of the rich meadows watered by the *Conwy*, and their elegant boundaries. It was a ſort of *Diæta*, or ſummer-houſe, erected by Sir *John Wynne*, in 1604, who had a claſſical taſte. The walls were covered with inſcriptions; and the ſituation well deſerved the panegyric beſtowed on it in the following *Welſh* lines, placed over the entrance:

Bryn *Gwedir* gwelir goleu adeilad
Uwch dolydd a chaurau
Bryn gwiech adail yn ail ne;
Bron wen Henllys bren hinlle.

"A conſpicuous edifice on *Gwider* hill, towering over the adjacent land; "a well-choſen ſituation, a ſecond paradiſe, a fair bank, a palace of "royalty †."

This has been of late demoliſhed; but the family chapel, which ſtands near the ſite of the old houſe, is ſtill preſerved, and ſervice performed in it four times in the year. Among various papers belonging to *Gwedir*, communicated to me by my friend, *Paul Panton*, eſq; is a curious one, drawn up by old Sir *John Wynne*, preſcribing the rules to his chaplain; an odd mixture of

* See the poems of *Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr*, who flouriſhed about the year 1250.

† *Hiſt. Gwedir Fam.* xii.

inſolence

Wm. Sharp sc.

SIR IOHN WYNNE BARONET.

inſolence and piety *. The inventory of his wardrobe, drawn up in his own hand, is alſo worth preſervation, as it ſhews not only the complete dreſs of a man of rank in thoſe days, but the great œconomy of the times, among people of faſhion, when their wardrobe was beſtowed by will, and paſſed from generation to generation †.

Sir *John* was ſent to *London* in 1574, to ſtudy the law; was a man of abilities, and particularly attentive to the antiquities of his country and family. His conſequence made him to be taken notice of by the court; for he was made a baronet in *June* 1611.

This place continued in the family till the year 1678, when it paſſed into that of the late duke of *Ancaſter*, by marriage of *Mary*, daughter and heireſs of Sir *Richard Wynne*, with *Robert* marqueſs of *Lindſey*; and is now poſſeſſed by *Peter Burrell*, eſq; in right of his wife *Priſcilla*, baroneſs *Willoughby*, eldeſt ſiſter to *Robert*, late duke of *Ancaſter*.

From hence to *Llanrwſt* is a pretty walk, moſtly by the ſide of the river. The town lies in *Denbighſhire*, on the oppoſite bank. The approach is over the bridge, the boaſted plan of *Inigo Jones*. It conſiſts of three arches; the middle fifty-nine feet wide: two are extremely beautiful, and mark the hand of the architect: the third differs greatly, having been re-built in 1703, by a very inferior genius. I wiſh I could do more honor to my country, than ſuppoſe him to have been a deſcendant of this neighborhood: but he ſeems to have been by birth a *Lon-*

Llanrwst Bridge.

Inigo Jones.

* Appendix. † The ſame.

doner, a ſon of a cloth-worker *, who, in all probability, was a native of this part of *Wales*; but our country is right to clame the ſon, which is done by univerſal tradition of the country. The turn of his countenance, and the violence of his paſſions †, at leſt legitimate no diſtant deſcent. He was patronized by the earl of *Arundel*, and *William* earl of *Pembroke*; and by one or other ſent into *Italy*. His real chriſtian name was *Ynyr*, which he there changed into *Inigo*, or *Ignatius*. Thus, *John Cooper*, maſter of the *Viol de Gambia* to *Charles* I. after he had been in *Italy*, aſſumed the name of *Giovanni Coperario* ‡. It is in vain to give the life of a man, which has been ſo amply written by one of the ableſt pens in the fine arts. Let it ſuffice to ſay, that the firſt Sir *Richard Wynne* procured from *Jones* the plan of this bridge, of which he was founder, in 1636; determined to do his country all poſſible honor, by the beauty of the deſign, invented by an architect to which *Wales* had at leſt a near relation §.

THERE is one circumſtance attending this great genius, which deſerves mention, as it bears ſome relation to the country from whence he may have derived his origin. When he was employed to furniſh rare devices, and paint the ſcenery for the maſques of the feſtive year 1619, he painted the *Creigie'r eira*, or a ſcene in *Snowdonia*, for the maſque FOR THE HONOUR OF

* Mr. WALPOLE's Anecd. Painting, ii. 142.

† His print. tab. at p. 142. Anecd. and his Life *paſſim*.

‡ *Hawkins*'s Hiſt. Muſic, iv. 55.

§ Among all the family papers, there is not the leſt mention of *Inigo*, which muſt have been the caſe, had he been an *Eleve* of the *Wynnes*, as has been popularly aſſerted.

WALES.

Wales. He did it with ſuch ſucceſs, as to excite the envy of the poet, *Ben Jonſon*; for the ſcenes were more admired than the entertainment, which might very well be: but *Jonſon* was ſo offended, as to give vent to his ſpleen in a copy of verſes, as imbecil as they were rancorous and ill-founded *.

The river here makes a handſome appearance, extending in a direct line far above the bridge, and often enlivened with the coracles, the *vitilia navigia* of the antient *Britons*, buſied in taking ſalmon; and in the months of *February* and *March*, numbers of ſmelt. The tide does not flow nearer than *Llyn y Graig*, a mile and half below the bridge, where, in ſpring tides, boats of twelve tons may come.

Town of Llanrwst, and Church.

The town of *Llanrwſt* is ſmall, and ill built; and has nothing remarkable, except the church, which is dedicated to *St. Ryſtyd*, or *Reſtitutus*, archbiſhop of *London* in 361, preſent at the council of *Arles* in 353. The ground on which it is built, is ſaid to have been given by *Rhun*, the ſon of *Nefydd Hardd*, to expiate the foul murder of prince *Idwal*, a ſon of *Owen Gwynedd*, ſlain by order of his foſter-father, *Nefydd*, to whom he had been intruſted †. Some curious carving, ſaid to have been brought from the neighboring abby, graces the inſide. The *Gwedir* chapel, founded in 1633, by the above-mentioned Sir *Richard Wynne*, from a deſign of *Inigo*, would be another ornament, if not ſo ſhamefully neglected. On the wall is a ruinous marble monument, elegantly ornamented with trophies: it was meant

* *Ben. Jonſon*'s Works, vi. 294.

† XV. Tribes, of which *Nefydd* was one.

to

to comemorate the anceſtors of the family; but ſoon promiſes to tumble into a heap of undiſtinguiſhable rubbiſh.

BRASSES AND TOMBS.

TRAMPLED under feet, are ſeveral braſs plates, admirably engraven with the heads of ſeveral of the family, who reſt beneath. Among them is that of Sir *John Wynne*, compiler of the memoirs, who died in 1626. The country people have a tradition, that he was a great oppreſſor; and accordingly have ſent his perturbed ſpirit to reſide in the neighboring cataract of *Rhaiader y Wenol*. The head of his wife, *Sydney* *, daughter of Sir *William Gerard*, chancellor of *Ireland*, is elegantly engraven on a plate near him: that of their daughter, *Mary*, wife of Sir *Roger Moſtyn*, on another. Theſe were the work of *Sylvanus Crew*. But a half-length of dame *Sarah Wynne* †, daughter of Sir *Thomas Middleton*, of *Chirkcaſtle*, and wife to Sir *Richard Wynne*, by *William Vaughan*, is far the moſt beautiful piece of engraving I ever ſaw: yet neither the names of this, or the foregoing artiſt, are on the records of the fine arts. Her huſband was a gentleman of diſtinguiſhed merit, groom of the bedchamber to *Charles* I. when prince of *Wales*, and one of his attendants in the wild expedition into *Spain*, in 1623. He left behind him an excellent account of the journey, which was publiſhed by Mr. *Hearne*. He died the 19th of *July* 1649, and was interred diſtant from his country, in the church of *Wimbledon*. A fine head of him, by *Janſen*, is preſerved at *Wynn-Stay*; and the charming print from it, by that inimitable artiſt, Mr. *Bartolozzi*, lays me under very great obligations to Sir *Watkin Williams Wynne*, to whoſe

* Died in 1639. † Died in 1671.

ſpontaneous

IV

Corn.s Johnson pinx.t F. Bartolozzi del.t et sculp.t

SIR RICHARD WYNNE

M. Griffith Delin.ᵉ

Ja.ˢ Fittler Sculp.

LLANRWST BRIDGE

ſpontaneous munificence I am indebted for ſo conſiderable an ornament to the book.

A VERY plain ſtone records the death of his eldeſt brother, Sir *John Wynne*, knight, who died at *Lucca*, on his travels, in 1614, and was buried there, in the pariſh of *St. John*. I have ſeen numbers of his letters, which ſhew him to have been a very obſervant man; ſome of which may, in the Appendix, be an amuſement to the reader.

ONE other tomb, of far greater antiquity than the others, remains to be mentioned; that of *Howel Coytmor*, whoſe figure, armed, is repreſented in ſtone. He was gran-ſon of the knight at *Bettws*; owned *Gwedir*, which was ſold by one of his poſterity to the family of the *Wynnes*,

IN this church is preſerved the ſtone coffin of *Llewelyn the Great*, with the ſides curiouſly cut into quatre-foils. That prince was enterred in *Conwy* abby; but at the diſſolution, the coffin was removed to this place.

I MADE from *Llanrwſt* two excurſions; one to viſit *Maynan Abby*, tranſlated hither in 1289, from *Conwy*, by permiſſion of pope *Nicholas* *, as he ſays, at the requeſt of *Edward* I. and the monks. The king beſtowed on them the townſhip of *Maynan*, in lieu of *Conwy*, and confirmed to them all the revenues and priveleges they before enjoyed, together with various immunities from taxes, tolls, and duties †; and beſides, gave them the patronage of their antient church at *Conwy* ‡. The revenues of

MAYNAN ABBY.

* *Rymer*, ii. 427.

† *Dugdale Mon.* i. 921. *Steven's Tranſl.* 106.

‡ *Rotulæ Walliæ*, 90.

this houſe, at the diſſolution, were, according to *Dugdale*, one hundred and ſixty-two pounds fifteen ſhillings; to *Speed*, one hundred and ſeventy-nine pounds ten ſhillings and ten pence. The laſt abbot was *Richard Kyffyn* *, who had a penſion of twenty pounds a year. The abby was granted, in the fifth of queen *Elizabeth*, to *Elizeus Wynne*; and it is ſtill poſſeſſed by his deſcendant, lady *Wynne*, widow of the late Sir *John Wynne*, of *Glynllivon*. A large old houſe, built from the materials of the abby, ſtill remains.

TREFRIW. I RETURNED through *Llanrwſt*, and, about two miles beyond, high over the *Conwy*, viſit the village of *Trefriw*, where numbers of ſmall veſſels are built, and ſent down the river at ſpring tides. It is ſaid that *Llewelyn the Great* had near this place a palace; and, as a proof, ſeveral hewen ſtones have been found, in ploughing a field called *Gardd y Neuodd*. The church of *Trefriw* was originally built by *Llewelyn*, for the eaſe of his princeſs, who before was obliged to foot it to *Llanrhychwyn*, a long walk among the mountains †.

FROM hence I went back as far as *Gwedir*, and aſcend a very ſteep hill, leaving the park belonging to the houſe on the left. Go over an open ſpace, called *Bwlch yr Haiarn*, full of turberies, the providential fuel of the country. Some lead-mines have been diſcovered in theſe parts, but none of any conſequence.

GALE, OR BOG MYRTLE. The *Gale*, or bog myrtle, abounds here, and perfumes the air with its ſpicy ſmell. It is a northern plant, but does not extend

* *Willis* calls him *Richard ap Rhys*.

† *Sebright MS*.

far. It is found in *Lapland*, *Norway*, and *Sweden*, and ſeveral parts of the *Alpine* ſituations of *Great Britain*. It is called *Bwrli*, or the emetic plant; and *Gnwyrddling*, or green plant. Our countrymen uſe it as a yellow dye. They lay branches of it upon and under their beds, to keep off fleas and moths; and alſo give it in powder or infuſion, and apply it to the abdomen as a vermifuge. It is beſides ſometimes uſed as a *ſuccedaneum* for hops.

The *Sorbus Aucuparia*, or mountain aſh, is frequent in theſe parts. The poorer ſort of people make a drink, called *diod-griafel*, by infuſing the berries in water. In former times, a ſuperſtitious uſe was made of the wood: a piece, made in form of a croſs, was carried in the pocket, as an infallible preſervative againſt all ſorts of faſcinations.

After gaining the ſummit, viſit, to the right, *Llyn Geirionnydd*, a ſmall lake, noted for having had near it the habitation of the celebrated *Talieſin*, who flouriſhed about the year 560, in the time of *Gwyddno Goronhir*, a petty prince of *Cantre'r Gwaelod*. The hiſtory of our famous bard begins like that of *Moſes*; for he was found expoſed on the water, wrapped in a leathern bag, in a wear which had been granted to *Elphin*, ſon of *Gwyddno*, for his ſupport. The young prince, reduced by his extravagance, burſt into tears, at finding, as he imagined, ſo unprofitable a booty. He took pity on the infant, and cauſed proper care to be taken of him. After this, *Elphin* proſpered; and *Talieſin*, when he grew up, addreſſed to him the following moral ode, ſtyled *Dyhuddiant* Elphin, or Elphin's *Conſolation*; ſuppoſed to have been addreſſed to the prince by the infant bard, on the night he

Taliesin.

was found. I take the liberty of uſing the beautiful tranſlation, with which a fair countrywoman of mine hath lately favored the world *.

ELPHIN deg taw ath wylo
Na chabled, &c. †

I.

ELPHIN! fair as roſeate morn,
Ceaſe, O lovely youth! to mourn;
Mortals never ſhould preſume
To diſpute their Maker's doom.
Feeble race! too blind to ſcan
What th' Almighty deigns for man;
Humble hope be ſtill thy guide,
Steady faith thy only pride,
Then deſpair will fade away,
Like demons at th' approach of day.
CUNLLO's prayers acceptance gain,
Goodneſs never ſues in vain;
He, who form'd the ſky, is juſt,
In him alone, O ELPHIN! truſt.
See gliſt'ning ſpoils in ſhoals appear,
Fate ſmiles this hour on *Gwyddno*'s wear.

II.

ELPHIN fair! the clouds diſpell
That on thy lovely viſage dwell;
Wipe, ah! wipe the pearly tear,
Nor let thy manly boſom fear;

* Printed in M.DCC.LXXX. 4to. and ſold by *Dodſley* and *Elmſley*.
† See Mr. *Evan Evans*'s Collection, 150.

What

What good can melancholy give?
'Tis bondage in her train to live.
Pungent ſorrows doubts proclaim,
Ill ſuit thoſe doubts a Chriſtian's name;
Thy great Creator's wonders trace,
His love divine to mortal race,
Then doubt, and fear, and pain will fly,
And hope beam radiant in thine eye.
Behold me, leaſt of human kind,
Yet Heav'n illumes my ſoaring mind.
Lo! from the yawning deep I came,
Friend to thy lineage and thy fame,
To point thee out the paths of truth,
To guard from hidden rocks thy youth;
From ſeas, from mountains, far and wide,
GOD will the good and virtuous guide.

III.

ELPHIN fair! with virtue bleſt,
Let not that virtue idly reſt;
If rous'd, 'twill yield thee ſure relief,
And baniſh far unmanly grief:
Think on that Pow'r, whoſe arm can ſave,
Who e'en can ſnatch thee from the grave;
He bade my harp for thee be ſtrung,
Prophetic lays he taught my tongue.
Though like a ſlender reed I grow,
Toſs'd by the billows to and fro',
Yet ſtill, by Him inſpir'd, my ſong
The weak can raiſe, confound the ſtrong:
Am not I better, ELPHIN, ſay,
Than thouſands of thy ſcaly prey *?

* In the original, SALMONS.

IV. ELPHIN!

IV.

ELPHIN! fair as roſeate morn,
Ceaſe, O lovely youth! to mourn.
Weak on my leathern couch I lie,
Yet heav'nly lore I can deſcry;
Gifts divine my tongue inſpire,
My boſom glows celeſtial fire;
Mark! how it mounts! my lips diſcloſe
The certain fate of ELPHIN's foes.
Fix thy hopes on Him alone,
Who is th' eternal Three in One;
There thy ardent vows be given,
Prayer acceptance meets from Heaven;
Then thou ſhalt adverſe fate defy,
And ELPHIN glorious live and die.

GLYN LLUGWY. FROM this lake I deſcended a great ſteep, into *Glyn Llugwy*, a bottom watered by the *Llugwy*, fertile in graſs, and varied by ſmall groves of young oaks; very unlike the great woods which cloathed this place, *Dyffryn Mymbyr*, *Llanberis*, and other parts of *Snowdon*, in the time of *Leland* *. Go through a narrow paſs, high above a raging torrent, falling in broken caſcades from rock to rock. At a ſmall diſtance from hence, enter *Dyffryn Mymbyr*, a valley in which woods, and even trees, diſappear.

CAPEL KERIG. The ſmall church of *Capel Kerig*, and a few ſcattered houſes, give a little life to this dreary tract. *Snowdon* and all his ſons, *Crib Coch*, *Crib y Diſtill*, *Lliweddy yr Aran*, and many others, here burſt at once full in view, and make this far the fineſt approach

* *Itin.* v. 45

to

to our boaſted *Alps*. The boundaries of this vale are, on one ſide, the baſe of the crooked mountain, *Moel Siabod*; on the other, that of the *Gludar Bach*, and ſeveral other hills of leſſer note. The bottom is meadowy; at this time enlivened with the buſy work of hay harveſt, and filled with drags, horſes, and even men and women, loaden with hay. The middle is varied with two ſmall lakes, along whoſe ſides we rode; and at ſome diſtance beyond them, near *Pont y Gwryd*, quitted our horſes, to viſit the ſummit of the *Glyder*, noted for the report the editor of *Cambden* had made, of the ſingular diſpoſition of the rocks. We directed our ſervants to go on to *Llanberis*, with our ſteeds. The aſcent was extremely long, ſteep, and laborious, wet and ſlippery; and almoſt the whole way covered with looſe fragments of rocks, beneath which was a continual roar of waters, ſeeking their way to the bottom.

GLYDER BACH.

Our pains were fully repaid, on attaining the ſummit. The area was covered with groupes of columnar ſtones, of vaſt ſize, from ten to thirty feet long, lying in all directions: moſt of them were of a columnar form, often piled on one another: in other places, half erect, ſloping down, and ſupported by others, which lie without any order at their baſes. The tops are frequently crowned in the ſtrangeſt manner with other ſtones, lying on them horizontally. One was about twenty-five feet long, and ſix broad: I climbed up, and, on ſtamping it with my foot, felt a ſtrong tremulous motion from end to end. Another, eleven feet long, and ſix in circumference in the thinneſt part, was poiſed ſo nicely on the point of a rock, that, to appearance, the touch of a child

a child would overſet it. A third enormous maſs had the property of a rocking ſtone.

MANY of the ſtones had, bedded in them, ſhells; and in their neighborhood I found ſeveral pieces of lava. I would therefore rather conſider this mountain to have been a ſort of wreck of nature, formed and flung up by ſome mighty internal convulſion, which has given theſe vaſt groupes of ſtones fortuitouſly ſuch a ſtrange diſpoſition; for had they been the ſettled ſtrata, bared of their earth by a long ſeries of rains, they would have retained the regular appearance, as we obſerve in all other beds of ſimilar matter.

ONE ſide of this mountain is formed into a gap, *heriſſèe*, I may call it, with ſharp rocks, pointing upwards, one above the other, to a great height. In the midſt of a vale far below, riſes the ſingular mountain *Trevaen*, aſſuming on this ſide a pyramidal form, naked, and very rugged. A precipice, from whoſe ſummit I ſurveyed the ſtrange ſcene, forbad my approach to examine the nature of its compoſition; and whether it might not have been ſuſpected of being formed at the ſame time with the phœnomena on the top of its neighbor *Glyder:* for I have heard that inſulated mountains of this form often appear at tne baſe of greater, which have been ſuppoſed to owe their origin to volcanic force.

TREVAEN.

FROM *Glyder Bach* I paſſed over a plain, above half a mile broad, called *Y Waun Oer*, *The Chilly Mountainous Flat.* Obſerve from the edge, in a tremendous hollow, *Llyn y Boch Llwyd*, or *The Lake of the Grey Goat*; and in the bottom of the valley, near

near the foot of the *Trevaen*, *Llyn Ogwen*, noted for its fine trout.

From *Waen Oer* we made a moſt hazardous deſcent to *Cwm Bochllwyd*, and from thence to *Llyn Ogwen*. The way from that place into the valley, or rather chaſm, of *Nant Frankon*, is called *The Ben-glog*, the moſt dreadful horſe path in *Wales*, worked in the rudeſt manner into ſteps, for a great length. On one ſide, in a deep hollow, formed under fallen rocks, was once the hiding place of *Rys Goch o'r Eryri*, or *Rhys the Red*, of *Snowdon*; a mountain bard, patroniſed by *Robert ap Meredydd*, a partizan of *Glyndwr*, an outlawed chieftain, of whoſe fortunes he partook. I do aſſure the traveller, who delights in wild nature, that a viſit to it up *Nant Frankon*, from *Bangor*, will not be repented. The waters of five lakes dart down the precipice of the middle of the *Benglog*, and form the torrent of the *Ogwen*, which falls into the ſea a few miles lower. This bottom is ſurrounded with mountains of a ſtupendous height, moſtly precipitous; the tops of many edged with pointed rocks. I have, from the depth beneath, ſeen the ſhepherds ſkipping from peak to peak; but the point of contact was ſo ſmall, that from this diſtance they ſeemed to my uplifted eyes like beings of another order, floating in the air.

Ben-glog.

The *Trevaen*, from this bottom, makes alſo a very ſingular appearance, reſembling a human face, reclined backward. Forehead, noſe, lips, and chin, are very apparent; and you may add, without any great ſtrain of fancy, the beard of an antient inhabitant, an arch-druid.

CWM IDWAL. BEGIN another hard aſcent to *Cwm Idwal*, infamous for the murder of a young prince of that name, ſon of *Owen Gwynedd*, by *Dunawt*, ſon of *Nefydd Hardd*, one of the fifteen tribes of *North Wales*, to whom *Owen* had entruſted the youth, to be foſtered, according to the cuſtom of the country. It was a fit place to inſpire murderous thoughts, environed with horrible precipices, ſhading a lake, lodged in its bottom. The ſhepherds fable, that it is the haunt of *Dæmons*; and that no bird dare fly over its damned water, fatal as that of *Avernus*.

> Quam ſuper haud ullæ poterant impunè volantes
> Tendere iter pennis.

NEAR this place is a quarry, noted for excellent hones, of which quantities are ſent annually to *London*.

A NEW and greater toil is to be undergone in the aſcent from *Cwm Idwal*, to the heights I had left. The way lies beneath that vaſt precipice, *Caſtell y Geifr*, or *The Caſtle of the Goats*. In ſome diſtant age, the ruins of a rocky mountain formed a road by a mighty lapſe. A ſtream of ſtones, each of monſtrous ſize, points towards the *Cwm*; and are to be clambered over by thoſe only, who poſſeſs a degree of bodily activity, as well as ſtrength of head to bear the ſight of the dreadful hollows frequent beneath them.

TWLL DU. OBSERVE, on the right, a ſtupendous *roche fendue*, or ſplit rock, called *Twll-Du*, and *The Devil's Kitchen*. It is a horrible gap, in the center of a great black precipice, extending in length

about a hundred and fifty yards; in depth, about a hundred; and only ſix wide; perpendicularly open to the ſurface of the mountain. On ſurmounting all my difficulties, and taking a little breath, I ventured to look down this dreadful aperture, and found its horrors far from being leſſened, in my exalted ſituation; for to it were added the waters of *Llyn y Cwn*, impetuouſly ruſhing through its bottom.

KLOGWYN DU.

REACH the *Glyder Vawr*, and paſs by the edge of *Klogwyn Du Ymhen y Glyder*, as dreadful a precipice as any in *Snowdonia*, hanging over the dire waters of *Llyn Idwal*. Its neighborhood is of great note among botaniſts for rare plants, among which may be reckoned the *Saxifraga Nivalis*, *Bulbocodium*, and the *Lichen Iſlandicus*. The laſt is of ſingular uſe to the *Icelanders*. A decoction of the freſh leaves in water ſerves them in the ſpring as a powerful cathartic; and yet, when dried, changes its quality, and if grinded to powder, is a common food, either made into bread, or boiled with milk, or water. *Haller* and *Scopoli* alſo mention its uſe, at their time, in *Vienna*, in coughs and conſumptions, made into broth, or gruel *.

GLYDER VAWR.

THE proſpect from this mountain is very noble. *Snowdon* is ſeen to great advantage; the deep vale of *Llanberris* and its lakes, *Nant Frankon*, and variety of other ſingular views. The plain which forms the top is ſtrangely covered with looſe ſtones like the beach of the ſea; in many places croſſing one another, in all directions, and entirely naked. Numbers of groupes of ſtones are placed almoſt erect, ſharp pointed, and in ſheafs: all

* *Lightfoot's Fl. Scotica*, ii. 83.

are weather-beaten, time-eaten, and honey-combed, and of a venerable grey color. The elements ſeemed to have warred againſt this mountain: rains have waſhed, lightnings torn, the very earth deſerted it, and the winds made it the conſtant object of their fury. The ſhepherds make it the reſidence of ſtorms, and ſtyle a part of it *Carnedd y Gwynt*, or *The Eminence of Tempeſts*.

THIS mountain is connected to the leſſer *Glyder* by the *Weyn Oer*: the traveller therefore has his choice of ways to theſe wondrous mountains; but the moſt preferable for eaſe, is the road I deſcend into the vale of *Llanberis*. In my way, paſs cloſe by a rugged brow of a hill, which I think is *Rhiw y Glyder*, recorded by LLWYD and RAY, for its variety of plants. From thence deſcend by *Oleu Fawr*.

LLYN Y CWN. SOON after, viſit the ſmall lake, called *Llyn y Cwn*, noted for the tale of *Giraldus*; who informs us, that in his days, the three kinds of fiſh it yielded, trouts, perch, and eels, were monocular, every one wanting the left eye. At preſent, there is not a fiſh in it to diſprove the relation. To make amends, the botaniſt will find in it the *Lobelia Dortmanna*, *Subularia Aquatica*, and *Iſoetis Lacuſtris*; and not far from it, the *Juncus Triglumis*, common to this, and ſome of the *Highland* mountains. The *Hieracium Alpinum*, *Rubus Saxatilis*, *Solidago Cambrica*, and other rare plants, are to be met with. In the courſe of this part of the deſcent, leave on the right *Llider Vawr* and *Llider Vach*, two great mountains, part of the boundaries of *Nant-Beris*; and arrive in that vale by *Caunant yr Eſgar*, or *The Dingle of the Enemy*.

NANT-BERIS. THIS is a very pictureſque vale, bounded by the baſe of *Snowdon*,

Moses Griffiths del. *Peter Mazell Sculp.*

VIEW in NANTBERIS.

Snowdon, *Cefn Cwm Gafr*, the two *Glyders*, and two *Lliders*, each of them firſt-rate mountains. It is ſtrait, and of nearly an equal breadth, filled by ſome meadows, and two magnificent lakes, which communicate to each other by means of a river. The venerable oaks, ſpoken of by *Leland*, are no more. Avarice, or diſſipation, and its conſtant follower, poverty, have deſpoiled much of our principality of its leafy beauties. Among the numberleſs errors of this performance, I fear the word IS cloathed with trees, muſt be ſupplied by the traveller with WAS. But this ſhadeleſs tract is ſtill worthy his attention. A road, once a ſucceſſion of rude and ſtony ſtairs, made with much labor, ran on one ſide, high above the lake, and was often cut out of the rock, to form the way. This is, I am now informed, changed into a road, which too much facilitates the approach, and leſſens its propriety, and its agreement with the wild environs.

CASTELL DOLBADERN.

ON the loftieſt part, over one of the lakes, ſtand the remains of *Caſtell Dolbadern*, conſiſting of a round tower, and a few fragments of walls. It was conſtructed with the thin laminated ſtones of the country, cemented with very ſtrong mortar, without ſhells. The inner diameter of the tower is only twenty-ſix feet. This ſeems to have been built to defend the paſs into the interior parts of *Snowdonia*; and it was likewiſe uſed as a ſtate priſon. The founder is unknown to me; but it was evidently a *Welſh* prince.

IN this valley are two groupes of wretched houſes. The fartheſt is near the end of the upper lake, with its church, dedicated to *St. Peris*, who was, as we are told, a cardinal. Here

is

is to be ſeen the well of the ſaint, incloſed with a wall. The ſybil of the place attends, and divines your fortune by the appearance or non-appearance of a little fiſh, which lurks in ſome of its holes.

FROM hence I took a ride above the lakes, to their lower extremity. The upper is the leſſer, but much the moſt beautiful piece of water. It is ſaid to be in places a hundred and forty yards deep; to have abounded with char, before they were reduced by the ſtreams flowing from the copper mines, which had been worked on the ſides of the hills. The lower lake is about a mile and a half long, narrows gradually into the form of a river, called the *Rythell*, and flows in a diffuſed channel to *Caernarvon*, where it aſſumes the name of *Seiont*.

MARGARET UCH EVAN.

NEAR this end of the lake lived a celebrated perſonage, whom I was diſappointed in not finding at home. This wes *Margaret uch Evan*, of *Penllyn*, the laſt ſpecimen of the ſtrength and ſpirit of the antient *Britiſh* fair. This extraordinary female was the greateſt hunter, ſhooter, and fiſher of her time. She kept a dozen at leſt of dogs, terriers, grehounds, and ſpaniels, all excellent in their kinds. She killed more foxes in one year, than all the confederate hunts do in ten: rowed ſtoutly, and was queen of the lake: fiddled excellently, and knew all our old muſic: did not neglect the mechanic arts, for ſhe was a very good joiner: and notwithſtanding ſhe was ſeventy years of age, was the beſt wreſtler in the country, and few young men dared to try a fall with her. Some years ago, ſhe had a maid of congenial qualities; but death, that mighty hunter, at laſt earthed this faithful companion of her's. I muſt not forget, that all the

neighboring

neighboring bards payed their addreſſes to *Margaret*, and celebrated her exploits in pure *Britiſh* verſe.

About half a mile farther, I viſited the remains of *Llŷs Dinorwig*, a houſe ſaid to have been one of the palaces of prince *Llewelyn ap Gryffydd:* the walls high and ſtrong; the hall twenty-four yards long; and before the houſe is a deep ditch, over which had probably been a draw-bridge. Not very far from hence is a ſpot, called *Rhiw'r Cyrn*, or *The Brow of the Horns*; where, according to old uſage, an officer ſtood and blew his horn, to give notice to the houſhold of the approach of their maſter, or to ſummon the vaſſals to aſſemble on all emergent occaſions.

This country is part of the woodleſs flat, between the mountains and the *Menai*. Its want of ſtrength is ſupplied with ſeveral poſts, fortified in the *Britiſh* manner. *Dinas Dinorwig*, about half a mile ſouth of the church of *Llandeniolen* *, is the chief. The area is very large, ſurrounded with an agger of ſmall ſtones, backed by another of very large ones: then ſucceeds a deep ditch, a rampart of earth, a ſecond vaſt ditch, and a third rampart: within the area is a circle of ſtones, the poſt probably of the commander in chief. British Posts.

In our way from hence, we paſſed by another, called *Pen y Gaer*; and ſoon after, by a ſmaller, called *Bryn y Caſtrelau*, ſurrounded with a ſingle wall; and on a riſing on the other ſide of the *Rythell*, is another, named *Caer Cwm y Glo*, or *Caer Carreg-y-Fran*, from which had been (as we were informed) a paved way to *Llŷs Dinorwig*. I may here add, that after the death of

* In the church-yard is an yew tree, twenty-ſeven feet in girth.

Llewelyn,

Llewelyn, *Edward* I. beſtowed that palace on Sir *Gryffydd Llwyd*, the ſame gentleman who firſt brought him the news of the birth of his ſon *Edward* of *Caernarvon*.

RETURN by the ſame road, and, after refreſhing myſelf with a night's reſt at Mr. *Cloſe*'s, agent to the mines in *Llanberris*, early in the morning begin our aſcent to the higheſt peak of *Snowdon*, under the guidance of *Hugh Shone*, whom I beg leave to recommend as a moſt able conductor. Keep upon the ſide of the lake for a conſiderable way; then turn to the left, and ſee, not far from the road, *Caunant Mawr*, a noble cataract, precipitating over two vaſt rocks into two moſt horrible chaſms. Near this place were found ſeveral beads; ſome of glaſs, and one of jet.

CAUNANT MAWR.

ASCEND, above *Cwm Brwynog*, a very deep bottom, fertile in *Gwair y Rhoſydd*, which is compoſed chiefly of different kinds of ruſhes, particularly *Juncus Squarroſus*, the moſs-ruſh, *Scirpus Cæſpitoſus*, the heath club ruſh, *Schænus Nigricans*, the black bog ruſh, and *Carexes*, intermixed with few kinds of graſs. The hay which the lower meadows produce, is very different in quality, being remarkably fine and ſoft; and conſiſts in great part of the fine bent graſs, *Agroſtis Capillaris*. As we are on the ſubject of graſſes, it may be pleaſing to obſerve, how ſome of them wonderfully change their appearance, as they aſcend the higher hills: the turfy hair graſs, *Aira Cæſpitoſa*, ſheep's feſcue graſs, *Feſtuca Ovina*, Alpine meadow graſs, *Poa Alpina*, and ſome others, which, in the low countries, where they enjoy the due influence of the ſun, and length of ſummer, to ripen their ſeeds, are propagated in the common manner that graſſes are;

GRASSES.

as

as they reach a more exalted ſituation, where they want continuance of ſummer, and the neceſſary power of that enlivening body, to perfect their ſeeds, become viviparous; that is, the rudiment of the *Germen* vegetates, and ſhoots into blade in the cup, from whence falling, it readily takes root, and grows; a kind and providential diſpenſation, for the advantage of thoſe colder climates, which are leſs favorable to vegetation!

THIS mountanous tract ſcarcely yields any corn. Its produce is cattle and ſheep, which, during ſummer, keep very high in the mountains, followed by their owners, with their families, who reſide in that ſeaſon in *Havodtys*, or ſummer dairy-houſes, as the farmers in the *Swiſs Alps* do in their *Sennes*. Theſe houſes conſiſt of a long low room, with a hole at one end, to let out the ſmoke from the fire, which is made beneath. Their furniture is very ſimple: ſtones are the ſubſtitutes of ſtools; and the beds are of hay, ranged along the ſides. They manufacture their own cloaths; and dye their cloths with *Cenn du y Cerrig*, or *Lichen Omphaloides*; and another *Cenn*, the *Lichen Parietinus*; native dyes, collected from the rocks. During ſummer, the men paſs their time either in harveſt work, or in tending their herds: the women in milking, or making butter and cheeſe. For their own uſe, they milk both ewes and goats, and make cheeſe of the milk, for their own conſumption. The diet of theſe mountaneers is very plain, conſiſting of butter, cheeſe, and oat-bread, or *Bara Cyrch*: their drink whey: not but they have a reſerve of a few bottles of very ſtrong beer, by way of cordial, in illneſs. They are people of good underſtanding, wary and circumſpect; uſually tall, thin, and of ſtrong conſtitutions, from their way of

SUMMER DWELLINGS.

living. Towards winter, they descend to their *Hên Dref*, or *old dwelling*, where they lead, during winter, a vacant life.

In the course of our ascent, saw on the left, above the *Cwm*, *Moel y Cynhorion*, or *The Hill of Council*. Pass through *Bwlch y Maes-cwm*, and skirt the side of *Snowdon*, till we reach *Bwlch y Cwm Brwynog*, where the ascent becomes very difficult, by reason of its vast steepness. People here usually quit their horses. We began a toilsome march, clambering among the rocks. On the left were the precipices over *Cwm Brwynog*, with *Llyn du yr Arddwy* at their foot. On our right were those over the small lakes

THE HIGH LAKES. *Llyn Glâs*, *Llyn-y-Nadroedd*, and *Llyn Coch*. The last is the highest on this side of the mountain; and on whose margins, we were told, that, in fairy days, those diminutive gentry kept their revels. This space between precipice and precipice, forms a short, and no very agreeable isthmus, till we reached a verdant expanse, which gave us some respite, before we labored up another series of broken crags: after these, is a second smooth tract,

TOP OF SNOWDON. which reaches almost to the summit, which, by way of pre-eminence, is styled Y WYDDFA, or *The Conspicuous*. It rises almost to a point, or, at best, there is but room for a circular wall of loose stones, within which travellers usually take their repast.

THE mountain from hence seems propped by four vast buttresses; between which are four deep *Cwms*, or hollows: each, excepting one, had one or more lakes, lodged in its distant bot-

FYNNON LAS. tom. The nearest was *Ffynnon Lâs*, or *The Green Well*, lying immediately below us. One of the company had the curiosity to descend a very bad way to a jutting rock, that impended over the monstrous precipice; and he seemed like *Mercury* ready to

take

take his flight from the ſummit of *Atlas*. The waters of *Eſynnon Lâs*, from this height, appeared black and unfathomable, and the edges quite green. From thence is a ſucceſſion of bottoms, ſurrounded by the moſt lofty and rugged hills, the greateſt part of whoſe ſides are quite mural, and form the moſt magnificent amphitheatre in nature. The *Wyddfa* is on one ſide; *Crib y Diſtill*, with its ſerrated tops, on another; *Crib Coch*, a ridge of fiery redneſs, appears beneath the preceding; and oppoſite to it is the boundary called the *Lliwedd*. Another very ſingular ſupport to this mountain is *Y Clawdd Coch*, riſing into a ſharp ridge, ſo narrow, as not to afford breadth even for a path.

The view from this exalted ſituation is unbounded. In a former tour *, I ſaw from it the county of *Cheſter*, the high hills of *Yorkſhire*, part of the north of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*: a plain view of the *Iſle of Man*; and that of *Angleſea* lay extended like a map beneath us, with every rill viſible. I took much pains to ſee this proſpect to advantage; ſat up at a farm on the weſt till about twelve, and walked up the whole way. The night was remarkably fine and ſtarry: towards morn, the ſtars faded away, and left a ſhort interval of darkneſs, which was ſoon diſperſed by the dawn of day. The body of the ſun appeared moſt diſtinct, with the rotundity of the moon, before it roſe high enough to render its beams too brilliant for our ſight. The ſea which bounded the weſtern part was gilt by its beams, firſt in ſlender ſtreaks, at length glowed with redneſs. The proſpect was diſcloſed to us like the gradual drawing up of a curtain in a

* *Auguſt 25th, Old Stile.*

theatre. We ſaw more and more, till the heat became ſo powerful, as to attract the miſts from the various lakes, which in a ſlight degree obſcured the proſpect. The ſhadow of the mountain was flung many miles, and ſhewed its bicapitated form; the *Wyddfa* making one, *Crib y Diſtill* the other head. I counted this time between twenty and thirty lakes, either in this county, or *Meirionyddſhire*. The day proved ſo exceſſively hot, that my journey coſt me the ſkin of the lower part of my face, before I reached the reſting-place, after the fatigue of the morning.

On this day *, the ſky was obſcured very ſoon after I got up. A vaſt miſt enveloped the whole circuit of the mountain. The proſpect down was horrible. It gave an idea of numbers of abyſſes, concealed by a thick ſmoke, furiouſly circulating around us. Very often a guſt of wind formed an opening in the clouds, which gave a fine and diſtinct viſto of lake and valley. Sometimes they opened only in one place; at others, in many at once, exhibiting a moſt ſtrange and perplexing ſight of water, fields, rocks, or chaſms, in fifty different places. They then cloſed at once, and left us involved in darkneſs: in a ſmall ſpace, they would ſeparate again, and fly in wild eddies round the middle of the mountains, and expoſe, in parts, both tops and baſes clear to our view. We deſcended from this various ſcene with great reluctance; but before we reached our horſes, a thunder ſtorm overtook us. Its rolling among the mountains was inexpreſſibly awful: the rain uncommonly heavy. We re-mounted our horſes, and gained the bottom with great hazard. The little

* *Auguſt 15th, New Stile.*

rills,

rills, which on our aſcent trickled along the gullies on the ſides of the mountain, were now ſwelled into torrents; and we and our ſteeds paſſed with the utmoſt riſque of being ſwept away by theſe ſudden waters. At length we arrived ſafe, yet ſufficiently wet and weary, to our former quarters.

ATTRACTION OF CLOUDS.

IT is very rare that the traveller gets a proper day to aſcend the hill; for it often appears clear, but by the evident attraction of the clouds by this lofty mountain, it becomes ſuddenly and unexpectedly enveloped in miſt, when the clouds have juſt before appeared very remote, and at great heights. At times, I have obſerved them lower to half their height, and notwithſtanding they had been diſperſed to the right and to the left, yet they have met from both ſides, and united to involve the ſummit in one great obſcurity.

RIVERS.

THE quantity of water which flows from the lakes of *Snowdonia*, is very conſiderable; ſo much, that I doubt not but collectively they would exceed the waters of the *Thames*, before it meets the flux of the ocean.

HEIGHT.

THE reports of the height of this noted hill have been very differently given. A Mr. *Caſwell*, who was employed by Mr. *Adams*, in 1682, in a ſurvey of *Wales*, meaſured it by inſtruments made by the directions of Mr. *Flamſtead* *; and aſſerts its height to have been twelve hundred and forty yards: but for the honor of our mountain I am ſorry to ſay, that I muſt give greater credit to the experiments made of late years, which have ſunk it to

* *Wren's Parentalia*, i. 253. I ſuppoſe *Caſwell* was employed by Mr. *Adams*, author of the *Index Villeris*.

one

one thouſand one hundred and eighty-nine yards and one foot, reckoning from the quay at *Caernarvon* to the higheſt peak.

STRATA. THE ſtone that compoſes this, and indeed the greateſt part of *Snowdonia*, is exceſſively hard. Large coarſe cryſtals are often found in the fiſſures, and very frequently cubic *pyritæ*, the uſual attendants on *Alpine* tracts. Theſe are alſo frequented by the rock ouzel, a mountain bird; and ſome of the lakes are ſtocked with *char* and *gwyniads*, *Alpine* fiſh. The antient inhabitant, the goat, decreaſes daily in value, ſince the decline of orthodoxal wigs, to which its ſnowy hair univerſally contributed. Still large flocks are kept for the dairy, and milked with great regularity.

BOTANY. BOTANY is not within my province. I ſhall therefore ſay nothing more of the plants, than that thoſe ſpecies which LINNÆUS ſo very expreſſively ſtyles *Ætherææ*, are entirely confined to the higher parts of the mountains; and notwithſtanding the ſeeds muſt be blown downwards, they never vegetate in the lower parts, which are deſerted by certain plants, which are natives of a higher tract of the ſame hill.

A ROYAL FOREST. THE animals of theſe regions are chiefly foxes. Stags were found here in the days of *Leland*, in ſuch numbers, as to deſtroy the little corn which the farmers attempted to ſow: but they were extirpated before the year 1626 *. *Snowdon* being a royal foreſt, warrants were iſſued for the killing of the deer. I have ſeen one from the duke of *Suffolk*, dated *April* the 30th, 1552; and another, in the firſt year of queen *Elizabeth*, ſigned by *Robert Touneſend*; and a third, in 1561, by *Henry Sydney*. The ſecond

* *Gwedir* MSS.

was addreſſed to the maſter of the *game, ranger and keeper of the queen's highneſs forreſt of* SNOWDON, in the county of *Caernarvon.* The laſt extended the foreſt into the counties of *Meirionydd* and *Angleſea*, with the view of gratifying the rapacity of the favorite, *Dudley*, earl of *Leiceſter*, who had by letters patent been appointed chief ranger of the foreſt. In conſequence, he tyrannized over the counties with great inſolence. A ſet of informers immediately acquainted him, that moſt of the freeholders eſtates might be brought within the boundaries. Commiſſioners were appointed to enquire of the encroachments and concealments of lands within the foreſt. Juries were empannelled; but their returns were rejected by the commiſſioners, as unfavorable to the earl's deſigns. The jurors performed an honeſt part, and found a verdict for the country. *Leland*, who, no longer before than the reign of *Henry* VIII. had gone over this tract, as he did moſt of *England*, under the royal commiſſion; and yet reports, that all *Cregery*, *i. e. Snowdon*, is in *Caernarvonſhire*, and no part in *Merionethſhire*; though, ſays he, that ſhire be *montanius* *.

A NEW commiſſion was then directed to Sir *Richard Bulkeley*, of *Baron Hill*, *Angleſea*, Sir *William Herbert*, and others; but this, by the firmneſs of Sir *Richard*, was likewiſe ſoon ſuperſeded. But, in 1578, another was appointed, dependent on the favorite. A packed jury was directed to appear at *Beaumaris*, who went on the ſame day to view the marſh of *Malltraeth*, ten miles diſtant; and found that marſh to be in the foreſt of *Snowdon*, notwithſtanding it was in another county, and divided from the foreſt

* *Itin.* v. 43.

by

by an arm of the ſea; becauſe the commiſſioners had told them, that they had met with an indictment in the exchequer of *Caernarvon* (which they had the year before broke open and ranſacked) by which they had diſcovered that a ſtag had been rouzed in the foreſt of *Snowdon*, in *Caernarvonſhire*, was purſued to the banks of the *Menai*; that it ſwam over that branch of the ſea, and was killed at *Malltraeth* INFRA *foreſtam noſtram de Snowdon*. The jury appeared in the earl's livery, blue, with ragged ſtaves on the ſleeves; and were ever after branded with the title of the *black jury, who ſold their country*.

SIR *Richard Bulkeley*, not the leſt daunted with this deciſion, continued ſteady in his oppoſition to the tyrant; and laid before the Queen the odiouſneſs of the proceedings, and the grievances her loyal ſubjects, the *Welſh*, labored under, by the commiſſion, inſomuch, in 1579, her highneſs was pleaſed, by proclamation at *Weſtminſter*, to recall it. *Leiceſter*, diſappointed in his views, purſued Sir *Richard* with the utmoſt inveteracy: he even accuſed him of a concern in *Babington*'s conſpiracy. "BEFORE "GOD," ſays the Queen, "we will be ſworn upon the evangeliſts, "he never intended us any harm;" and ſo ran to the bible, and kiſſed it, ſaying, "We ſhall not commit him: we have brought "him up from a boy *."

SACRED. *Snowdon* was held as ſacred by the antient *Britons*, as *Parnaſſus* was by the *Greeks*, and *Ida* by the *Cretans*. It is ſtill ſaid, that whoſoever ſlept upon *Snowdon*, would wake inſpired, as much as if he had taken a nap on the hill of *Apollo*. The *Britons*, in very

* From the communication of *Paul Panton*, eſq;

early

early times, worſhipped mountains and rivers *; but that does not appear from the triambics quoted by our able antiquary, Mr. *Rowlands* †; for the words *Eiry Mynydd* are applicable, not to this mountain in particular, but to all which are covered with ſnow. There are multitudes of theſe triambics, each ending with a moral reflection, the work of *Llywarch Hên*; of which the following may ſerve as an example:

Eiry mynydd gwangeus jâr;
Gochwiban gwynt ar dalar;
YN YR ING, GORAN YW'R CAR ‡.

While the hill is clad with ſnow,
Fowls for food ſcream out below,
Fierce the winds on plough-lands blow.
WHEN DEEP GRIEF AFFECTS YOUR MIND,
BALMY CURE FROM KIN YOU'LL FIND.

THE *Welſh* had always the ſtrongeſt attachment to the tract of *Snowdon*. It was, ſay they, the appertenance of the principality of *Wales*, which the prince and his predeceſſors held ſince the time of *Brute*. *Edward* I. was told by the inhabitants of *Snowdon*, in the treaty he held with our countrymen, in the year 1281, that even ſhould their prince be inclined to gratify the king, in yielding him poſſeſſion, they would not do homage to ſtrangers, of whoſe tongue, manners, and laws, they were ignorant §. Our

* *Gildas.*
† *Rowlands*, 253.
‡ Mr. *Rhys Jones*'s Coll. of *Welſh* Poems, p. 13.
§ *Powel*, 369.

princes had, in addition to their title, that of LORD OF SNOWDON. They had five hardy barons within the tract, who held of them. Such was the importance of this ſtrong region, that when *Llewelyn* was at the laſt extremity, he rejected the propoſal of *Edward*, of a thouſand a year, and ſome honorable county in *England*, well knowing that his principality muſt terminate with the ceſſion.

FAIR HELD THERE. No ſooner had *Edward* effected his conqueſt, than he held a triumphal fair upon this our chief of mountains; and adjourned to finiſh the joy of his victory, by ſolemn tournaments on the plains of *Nevyn*.

NAME. I SHALL take my leave of *Snowdonia*, with ſome remarks on the name, and the weather. The firſt is a literal tranſlation * of the antient appellation, *Creigie'r Eira*, *The Snowy Mountains*, from the frequency of ſnow upon them. *Niphates*, in *Armenia*, and *Imaus*, in *Tartary*, derive their name from the ſame circumſtance. Some have ſuppoſed it to be taken from *Creigiau'r Eryri*, or *The Eagle Rocks*; but that bird appears very ſeldom among them. The other circumſtance is conſtant: not that it is to be imagined that they are covered with ſnow in ſome part or other the whole year, as has been idly fabled; there being frequently whole weeks, even in winter, in which they are totally free.

WEATHER. THE earlieſt appearance of ſnow, is commonly between the middle of *October*, and the beginning of *November*: the falls which happen then, are uſually waſhed away with the rains, and the hills remain clear till *Chriſtmas*. Between that time and the end of *January*, the greateſt falls happen; which are ſucceeded

* By the *Saxons* firſt into SNAWDUNE. *Sax. Chr.* 203.

by others, about the latter end of *April*, or beginning of *May*, which remain in certain places till the middle of *June*, in which month it has been ſeen of the depth of ſome feet. It has even happened, that the greateſt fall has been in *April*, or beginning of *May*; and that never fails happening, when the preceding winter has had the ſmalleſt falls. But the fable of *Giraldus*, concerning the continuance of ſnow the whole year, is totally to be exploded.

NEAR the end of *Nant-beris*, paſs beneath *Glyder Vawr*, and obſerve the ſtrata of a columnar form, high above our heads. At times, vaſt fragments of this tremendous rock tumble down, the ruins are ſcattered about the baſe, and exhibit awful ſpecimens of the frequent lapſes. One is ſtyled the *Cromlech*, for having accidentally fallen on other ſtones, it remains lifted from the earth, with a hollow beneath, reſembling one of thoſe *Druidical* antiquities. The length of the incumbent ſtone is ſixty feet: the breadth forty-ſix: the thickneſs ſixteen. The hollow is ſaid once to have been occupied by an old woman; but now ſerves for a ſheep pen.

THE aſcent from hence is either over looſe ſtones, or ſolid ſtair-caſe; and is exceedingly ſteep. It is a ſingular road, lying in a ſtupendous chaſm, bounded for above a mile by nearly equidiſtant precipices, of prodigious height; on one ſide belonging to the *Glyders*, on the other by the parts of *Snowdon*.

REFRESH ourſelves on a ſpot called *The Gorphwysfa*, or *The Reſting-Place*. At a ſmall diſtance from which is *Bwlch y Gwyddyl*, or *The Paſs of the Iriſhmen*; from whence is a ſingular view of *Dyffryn Mymbyr*, the chaſm we had left; and far below us, GORPHWYSFA.

the picturesque vale of *Nant Gwynnan*, the scene of many a bloody skirmish in the time of *Edward* IV. between *William* earl of *Pembroke*, and the *Welsh Lancastrians*, under *Jevan ap Robert*.

CWM DYLI. DESCEND a very steep road, into that part called *Cwm Dyli*; where we quitted our horses, and began a most toilsome journey to visit the hidden vales lodged in the bosom of the mountains. We began with clambering up the rugged face of a rock, broken into a multitude of short precipices, and divided in the middle by a cataract, the discharge of the waters from the *Alpine* lakes.

CWM DYLI UCHA. After about a quarter of a mile's labor, we reached *Cwm y Cwm Dyli*, a flat tract of hay ground, watered by a river, and filled with hay-makers; the farmer and his family being resident here in his *Havodtu*, for the summer season. After dining with them on curds and whey, we kept along the river's side, and found opposed to us another front, rugged as the former, and attended with a cataract. This was surmounted with equal difficulty. We found, on arriving at the top, a bottom a mile in length,

LLYN LLYDAW. filled with *Llyn Llydaw*, a fine lake, winding beneath the rocks, and vastly indented by rocky projections, here and there jutting into it. In it was one little island, the haunt of black-backed Gulls, which breed here, and, alarmed by such unexpected visitants, broke the silence of this sequestered place by their deep screams. We continued our walk, ascending along a narrow path above the lake, as far as the extremity; then descending, reached the opposite side, in order to encounter a third descent, as arduous as the preceding. This brought us into the horrible *crater*, immediately beneath the great precipice of the *Wyddfa*,

FFYNNON LAS. in which is lodged *Ffynnon Lâs*. Its situation is the most dread-

ful,

ful, ſurrounded by more than three parts of a circle, with the moſt horrible precipices of the *Wyddfa*, *Crib y Diſtill*, and *Crib Coch*, with the vaſt mural ſteeps of *Lliwedd*, continued over the other lake and *Cwm Dyli*. In the *Lliwedd* was a ſtrange break, called *Bwlch y Saethau*, or *The Paſs of the Arrows*; probably a ſtation for hunters, to watch the wanderings of the deer.

The margins of *Ffynnon Lâs* here appeared to be ſhallow and gravelly. The waters had a greeniſh caſt; but what is very ſingular, the rocks reflected into them ſeemed varied with ſtripes of the richeſt colors, like the moſt beautiful luteſtrings; and changed almoſt to infinity.

Here we obſerved the *Wheat-ear*, a ſmall and ſeemingly tender bird; and yet is almoſt the only ſmall one, or indeed the only one, except the Rock Ouzel, or *Mwyalchen y Graig*, that frequents theſe heights: the reaſon is evidently the want of food. WHEAT-EAR.

We deſcended from this dreary ſcene, on the other ſide of the hill, above *Llyn Llydaw*, having the tremendous red precipices of *Crib Coch* high above us, riſing into a mere ridge, ſerrated, or rather *heriſſée*, its whole length. The face of many of the rocks were marked with large veins of coarſe white cryſtal; and others, eſpecially *Crib Coch*, were varied with the deep green of the dwarf *Alpine* juniper. On attaining the top of the hills, above the lower end of the lake, we deſcend to the *Gorphwysfa*, where we found our horſes, and returned once more into *Nant-Gwinan*. CRIB COCH.

This is the moſt beautiful vale in *Snowdonia*, varied with woods, lakes, river, and meadows; beſides the moſt auguſt boundaries: NANT GWYNAN.

boundaries: being guarded on each ſide by vaſt mountains, ſuch as *Crib Du*, or part of *Mynydd Nanmor*, the *Aran*, *Lliwedd*, *Ddu allt*, and *Wenallt*, extending about five miles to the church of *Beddkelert*. On the left, we paſſed by *Havod Lwyvog*, the ſeat of the late *Meyric Meredydd*, eſq; ſurrounded with large woods. A little farther is the pretty lake *Llyn Gwynan*, about three quarters of a mile long, and near it are the ruins of a chapel of the ſame name. The chapel had been an eaſe to the church of *Beddkelert*, and was ſupported by a ſtipend of five pounds a year from the eſtate of *Gwedir*. It is ſaid to have been founded by *John Williams*, grandſon of *John Coetmor*, *ap Meredydd*, *ap Jevan*, *ap Robert*, of *Keſelgyfarch* and *Gwedir*, and goldſmith in *London*; the ſame who is reported to have furniſhed *Michael Drayton* with *Leland*'s papers.

NEAR the end of the lake, the valley grows ſo contracted, as to form only a narrow ſtreight; but almoſt inſtantly opens again into a fine expanſe, chiefly filled with the beautiful *Llyn Dinas*. Beyond that, is a tract of meads, chequered with woods, and watered by the river created by the various lakes; but retains the name of *Avon Glâs-Lyn*, from the lofty *Ffynnon-Lâs*, from which it originates.

DINAS EMRIS. AT the bottom riſes a vaſt rock, inſulated, and cloathed with wood; the famous *Dinas Emris*, from early times celebrated in *Britiſh* ſtory; for here

> Prophetic *Merlin* ſate, when to the *Britiſh* king
> The changes long to come, auſpiciouſly he told.

WHEN

Moſes Griffiths del. Peter Mazell, Sculp

DINAS EMRYS.

Its Legend.

When *Vortigern* found himſelf unable to conteſt with the treacherous *Saxons*, whom he had, in the year 449, invited into *Britain*, he determined, by the advice of his magicians, on building an impregnable fortreſs in *Snowdon*. He collected the materials, which all diſappeared in one night. The prince, aſtoniſhed at this, convened again his wiſe men. They aſſured him, his building would never ſtand, unleſs it was ſprinkled with the blood of a child born without the help of a father. The realm was ranſacked: at length, one of his emiſſaries overheard ſome boys at play reproach another, and call him an unbegotten knave. The child and his mother were brought before the king. She confeſſed he was the offspring of an *Incubus*; a ſpecies of being, now unhappily out of all credit. The boy, whoſe name was *Merlin*, was ordered to be ſacrificed; but on confounding all the magicians with his queſtions, and explaining the cauſe of the miſcarriage, got his liberty *, and

to that mighty king, which raſhly undertook
A ſtrong wall'd tower to rear, thoſe earthly ſpirits that ſhook
The great foundation ſtill, in dragon's horrid ſhape,
That dreaming wizard told, making the mountain gape
With his moſt powerful charms, to view thoſe caverns deep;
And from the the top of *Brith*, ſo high and wondrous ſteep,
Where *Dinas Emris* ſtood, ſhew'd where the ſerpents fought,
The White that tore the Red: from whence the prophet wrought
The *Britons* ſad decay, then ſhortly to enſue †.

This is the poetical tranſlation of the legend. *Merlin*, or

Merlin.

* *Nennius*, c. xl. xlii. xliii.

† *Draiton's Polyolb*. Song x.

Merddin

Merddin Emris, or *Ambroſius*, was in fact the ſon of a noble *Roman*, of the ſame name. His mother, a *Veſtal*, to ſave her life and honor *, invented the fable of his father, which was ſwallowed by the credulity of the times. *Merlin* was an able mathematician and aſtronomer, and deeply read in all the learning of his age. The vulgar, as uſual, aſcribed all he did to art magic; and his diſcovery that *Vortigern* had begun to found his caſtle on a moraſs, was immediately ſaid to have been attended with moſt portentous circumſtances. Numbers of prophecies were attributed to him; the repetition of which is ſaid to have been forbidden by the council of *Trent*.

THREE ſides of this famous rock are precipitous. On the top is a large area; on the acceſſible part of which are two great ramparts of ſtone, and within is the ruin of a ſtone building, ten yards long: the walls are dry, but ſtrong. Since it is certain that *Vortigern*, after his misfortunes, retired to the *Snowdon* hills, and died not very remote from them, it is poſſible he might have ſelected this for his ſtrong-hold, as it is admirably adapted for that purpoſe, and nearly fills the ſtreight of the valley, and *Merlin Ambroſius* might have given to it the name of *Emris*. A place cloſe by, ſtyled *Cell y Dewiniaid*, or *The Cell of the* DIVINERS, alluſive to the magicians of *Vortigern*'s court, is another circumſtance which favors the hiſtory of this celebrated ſuppoſed prophet.

BEDD KELERT. FROM hence is a pleaſant, but ſhort ride, near the river, to the village of *Bedd Kelert*, ſeated in a beautiful tract of meadows, at

* *Powel*'s Notes on *Giraldus Itin. Cambriæ*, lib. 1. c. x.

the

I: Evans del:

BEDDKELERT

the junction of three vales, near the conflux of the *Glâs Lyn* and the *Colwyn*, which flows through *Nant Colwyn*, a vale that leads to *Caernarvon*. Its ſituation was the fitteſt in the world to inſpire religious meditation, amidſt lofty mountains, woods, and murmuring ſtreams. The church is ſmall, yet the loftieſt in *Snowdonia*. The eaſt window conſiſts of three narrow ſlips. The roof is neat; and there yet remains ſome very pretty fret-work. A ſide chapel is ſupported by two neat pillars, and gothic arches. I could diſcover no tombs, nor any thing worth tranſcribing, but the following epitaph:

Infra jacet corpus *Evani Lloyd*, de
Hafod Lwyfog, Armigeri, qui
Inhumatus fuit paterno et avito
Tumulo, ſexto die Idus *Maiæ*.

A. D. 1678. Annos Natus 72.

PRIORY.

THIS church had been conventual, belonging to a priory of *Auguſtines*, dedicated to *St. Mary*. There is reaſon to ſuppoſe they might have been of that claſs which was called *Gilbertines*, and conſiſted of both men and women, who lived under the ſame roof, but ſtrictly ſeparated from each other by a wall. The cauſe of my ſuſpicion is, that I diſcovered a piece of ground near the church, called *Dôl y Llein*, or *The Meadow of the Nun*.

BEDD KELERT had been the moſt antient foundation in all the country, excepting *Bardſey*. *Tanner* aſcribes it to our laſt prince; but it muſt have been long before his days, there being a recital

of a charter for certain lands beſtowed on it by *Llewelyn the Great* *, who began his reign in 1194. It was favored in the ſame manner by others of the ſucceeding princes. *David ap Llewelyn* beſtowed on it ſome lands in *Pennant Gwernogan*, belonging to *Tudor ap Madoc*, to which the prince had no right. This occaſioned a ſuit between the ſons of *Tudor*, and *Philip*, prior of the houſe, before *William de Grandiſon* and *R. de Stanedon*, at *Caernarvon*, when a verdict was given againſt the convent †. The prior had for his ſupport the grange of *Llecheidior* and part of a mill, the grange of *Fentidilt* and village of *Gwehelyn*, the grange of *Tre'rbeirdd*, one plough land, and a certain ſhare of the bees. The eſteem which theſe inſects were held in by the antient *Britons*, on account of their producing the nectareous *Medd*, was ſo great, that they conſidered them as created in PARADISE; that when they quitted it on the fall of man, they were bleſſed by GOD himſelf; and therefore, no maſs ought to be celebrated, but by the light of their wax ‡.

THE prior had beſides, an allowance of fifty cows and twenty-two ſheep. The expences of the houſe muſt have been large. It lay on the great road from *England* and *Weſt Wales* into *North Wales*, and from *Ireland* and *North Wales* into *England*. In order to enable this place to keep its uſual hoſpitality, after it had ſuffered, in 1283, by a caſual fire, *Edward* I. moſt munificently repaired all the damages; and biſhop *Anian*, about the year 1286, for the encouragement of other benefactors, re-

* *Rymer*, ii. 316. † *Sebright MS.* ‡ *Leges Walliæ*, 254.

mitted to all ſuch who were truly repentant of their ſins, forty days of any penance inflicted on them *.

In 1535, it was beſtowed, by *Henry* VIII. on the abby of *Chertſey*, in *Surry*; and in 1537, it was given with the laſt, as an appertenance to that of *Biſham*, in *Berkſhire* †. On the diſſolution, the king gave to the family of the *Bodvels*, all the lands in *Caernarvonſhire* which belonged to this priory; and all thoſe in *Angleſey*, to that of the *Prydderchs*, excepting the townſhip of *Tre'rbeirdd* ‡. The revenues of *Bedd Kelert* were valued by *Dugdale* at ſeventy pounds three ſhillings and eight pence; by *Speed*, at ſixty-nine pounds three ſhillings and eight pence. *Edward Conway* is mentioned as laſt prior. There are not the leſt reliques of the houſe.

In order to complete the mountain ramble, as far as was in my power, I made an excurſion from this village up a narrow vale. Aſcend a ſteep road, amidſt a thin hanging wood; and ſee from the road multitudes of black cattle, deſcending from all parts, on their way to a neighboring fair. The vale expands; is watered by the *Colwyn*, which flows from a ſmall lake we paſſed by, called *Llyn Cader*. Left on the right another aſcent to the *Wyddfa*, where its baſe extends to a conſiderable breadth, and is far leſs ſteep than that on the ſide of *Nant-Beris*. We ſoon reached the pretty lake of *Cawellyn*, noted for its Char. The mountains hereabouts approach near to each other. On the right, *Mynydd Mawr* forms a ſtriking feature: its top is ſmooth, but its front is formed into a moſt immenſe precipice, retiring

LLYN CADER.

* *Rymer*, ii. 317. † *Dugdale Monaſt.* iii, 21. ‡ *Rowland's MSS.*

inwards in a ſemicircular ſhape. *Moel Eilio*, is another mountain of a ſtupendous bulk, moſt regularly rounded, and of a beautiful verdure. At *Bettus Garmon*, a village with a church dedicated to *St. Germanus*, the ſcene changes into a range of beautiful meadows, watered by a rapid ſtream.

LLYN Y DYWARCHEN.

I HERE turn my back on the humble flats, and reſume my former road, till I had paſſed *Cawellyn*. Not far beyond that lake, I turned to the right, to viſit *Llyn y Dywarchen*, or *The Lake of the Sod*, long ſince celebrated by the hyperbolical pen of *Giraldus* *, for its *inſula erratica*, its *wandering iſland*, as he calls it. That little lake is ſeated in the middle of a turbery; and at this time actually exhibited the phænomenon recorded by our romantic hiſtorian. It had on it a floating iſland, of an irregular ſhape, and about nine yards long. It appeared to be only a piece of the turbery, undermined by the water, torn off, and kept together by the cloſe entangling of the roots, which form that ſpecies of ground. It frequently is ſet in motion by the wind; often joins its native banks; and, as *Giraldus* ſays, cattle are frequently ſurprized on it, and by another gale carried a ſhort voyage from the ſhore.

DRWS Y COED.

CONTINUE our journey to *Drws y Coed*, or *The Door of the Wood*, a paſs towards *Clynnog*. It is bounded by vaſt mountains: on one ſide by *Tal Mignedd*; on the other, by a great clift of *Mynydd Mawr*. Some years ago, here were conſiderable adventures for copper, of the yellow kind; and in the rocks were ſometimes found ſome very thin *laminæ* of the native

* *Itin. Cambr.* lib. ii. c. ix. p. 871.

metal.

metal. I was tempted here to exceed a little the limits of my *Alpine* tour; for now the mountains deſcend faſt from their majeſtic heights, growing leſs and leſs as they approach the *Iriſh* ſea. My motive was to obtain a ſight of two fine lakes, called *Llynnieu Nanlle*, which form two handſome expanſes, with a very ſmall diſtance between each. From hence is a noble view of the *Wyddfa*, which terminates the view through the viſto of *Drws y Coed*. It is from this ſpot Mr. WILSON has favored us with a view, as magnificent as it is faithful. Few are ſenſible of this; for few viſit the ſpot.

LLYNIEU NANLLE.

NEAR theſe lakes *Edward* I. in the ſummer of 1284, reſided for ſome days; and from hence iſſued out more than one of his edicts. I find ſome dated *July* the 17th and the 20th. Others are dated in the ſame year, from *Bangor*, *Caernarvon*, *Mold*, and *Hope*. One from *Caernarvon* * is dated as late as the 22d of *October*; which ſhews what attention he paid to the eſtabliſhment of government in his new dominions, by the long viſit he deigned to honor them with. The place he reſided at here, was called *Bala Deu Llyn*, or the place where a river diſcharges itſelf from two lakes: but at preſent all memory is loſt of the ſituation of the town, whoſe traces might perhaps be ſtill diſcovered, after proper ſearch.

I RETURNED by the ſame road; and again reach *Bedd Kelert*, where I made a coarſe lodging. The evening was ſo fine, that we were irreſiſtibly tempted not to defer till morning our viſit to *Pont Aberglas Llyn*, a ſhort walk from hence. The firſt part is along the narrow vale; but in a very little time

PONT ABERGLAS LLYN.

* *Sebright* MSS. *Rymer*, ii. 276 to 289.

the

the mountains approach ſo cloſe, as to leave only room for the furious river to roll over its ſtony bed; above which is a narrow road, formed with incredible labor, impending over the water. The way ſeems to have been firſt cut out of the rock, and then covered with great ſtones, as uſual in ſeveral of our narrow paſſes. The ſcenery is the moſt magnificent that can be imagined. The mountains riſe to very uncommon height, and oppoſe to us nothing but a broken ſeries of precipices, one above the other, as high as the eye can reach. Here is very little appearance of vegetation; yet in ſpots there is here and there enough to tempt the poor goat to its deſtruction; for it will ſometimes leap down to an alluring tuft of verdure, where, without poſſiblity of return, it muſt remain to periſh, after it has finiſhed the dear-bought repaſt.

The bridge terminates the paſs; and conſiſts of a ſingle arch, flung over a deep chaſm, from rock to rock. Above is a conſiderable cataract, where the traveller at times may have much amuſement, in obſerving the ſalmon, in great numbers, make their efforts to ſurpaſs the heights. Near the place is a ſalmon fiſhery. Here had been a royal wear in the reign of *Henry* IV. which was then rented by *Robert ap Meredydd*. It probably belonged in old times to our natural princes; for it ſeems to have been a moſt valuable privelege. We have ſeen before, that young *Elphin* was endowed with one by his royal father; and the effect of his diſappointment in miſſing his uſual revenues, by finding (which, I dare ſay, was in thoſe days a very rare inſtance) an empty wear. Salmon was the moſt uſeful and eſteemed fiſh among the *Welſh:* it was reckoned among the game; and, if I remember right, is the only ſpecies which was preſerved by law.

On

RHYS GOCH.

ON my return to *Bedd Kelert*, a ſtone by the road ſide was pointed out to me, by the name of the chair of *Rhys Goch O'ryri*, the famous mountain bard, cotemporary with *Owen Glyndwr*. He was of the houſe of *Havod Garregog* at the entrance into *Traeth Mawr*, from whence he uſed to walk, and ſitting on this ſtone, compoſe his poems. Among others, is a ſatire on a fox, for killing his favorite peacock. He died about the year 1420, and was interred in the holy ground at *Bedd Kelert*, after eſcaping the vengeance of the *Engliſh*, for inſpiring our countrymen with the love of liberty, and animating them, by his compoſitions, into a long and gallant reſiſtance to the galling yoke.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

TO THE

FIRST VOLUME

OF THE

WELSH TOUR.

PAGE 6. Half a league—read—half a mile; for that is the ſenſe of *Leuca* in the Doomſday Book. See *Dugdale's Warwickſhire*, i. 46.

Page 8. I find that coals were diſcovered in the townſhip of *Moſtyn*, as early as the time of *Edward* I. as appears by an extent of that place, in the twenty-third year of that reign *.

Page 9. *Shunamitiſh* Widow—read—Woman.

Page 26. In the grant to the abby of *Baſingwork*, of the lands in the peak of *Derbyſhire*, there is a clauſe, reſerving the veniſon to the king, with the conſent of the abbot and convent; for the preſervation of which, two foreſters were appointed by the king; but the grantees were allowed to kill hares, foxes, and wolves †.

Page 28. TUDOR ALED, a bard cotemporary with the abbot *Thomas Pennant*, celebrates in a poem not only his hoſpitality,

* *Sebright* MSS. † Ibid.

but his proweſs in battle; and compliments him on having beautified and enlarged the abby. Among other luxuries, I think he enumerates ſugar; which might well be, for ſugar was a great article of commerce in *Sicily*, as early as the year 1148; ſo a rich abbot might eaſily indulge himſelf in it in the fifteenth century *.

Page 36. *James* II. in his progreſs to *Holywell*, gave, as marks of his favor, golden rings, with his hair plaited beneath a cryſtal. One is ſtill preſerved in a neighboring family, which he had beſtowed on the Roman Catholic Miniſter of *Holywell*.

Page 82. That the *Britiſh* commanders uſed to ſtand on a turfy mount, or tribunal, to harangue their ſoldiers, is evident from the authority of *Dio Caſſius*, lib. lxii. who informs us, that *Boadicea* delivered her animating ſpeech from an eminence of this kind.

Page the ſame. *William Parry*, LL.D. and member for *Queenſborough*, was born at *Northop*. He was executed before the door of the parlament-houſe, in 1584, for deſigning the death of Queen *Elizabeth*. He had before rendered himſelf obnoxious, for having had the courage to ſpeak againſt the bill for the expulſion of popiſh prieſts, &c. was committed to priſon for his freedom, but reſtored on making ſubmiſſion. He aſſerted, that his mother was a *Conway*, of *Boddrudan*; that his father had thirty children by two wives, and died aged 108. His enemies, on the contrary, ſay he was of mean parents: but

* *Sebright* MSS.

be

be that as it was, his abilities were conſiderable; but his duplicity brought him to his fatal end. He went a voluntary ſpy to foreign parts, was gained over by the *Romiſh* party, probably meant to deceive both ſides; ſo fell a juſt victim to his artifices. See *Stripe's Annals.*

Page 97. *Hawarden* caſtle was then garriſoned for the parlament, by a hundred and fifty men of Sir *Thomas Middleton*'s regiment.

Page 101. Chief Juſtice *Glynne*, in 1655, eſtabliſhed the firſt precedent reported in the books for granting a new trial, on account of *exceſſive damages* given by the jury.—*Black. Com.* iii. 388.

Page 105. Lord Chancellor *Egerton* was buried at *Doddleſton*, out of affection to his wife *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Thomas Ravenſcroft*, eſq; of *Breton.* His mother had been a ſervant maid in the pariſh; but was the daughter of one *Sparks*, of *Bickerton.* I have heard this remarkable anecdote of her, and the fortunate child: The mother had been ſo much neglected by Sir *Richard Egerton*, of *Ridley*, the father of the boy, that ſhe was reduced to beg for ſupport. A neighboring gentleman, a friend of Sir *Richard*, ſaw her aſking alms, followed by her child. He admired its beauty, and ſaw in it the evident features of the knight. He immediately went to Sir *Richard*, and layed before him the diſgrace of ſuffering his own offspring, illegitimate as it was, to wander from door to door. He was affected with the reproof,

adopted the child, and by a proper education, layed the foundation of its future fortune.

Page 107. *Septimus*—read—*Septimius*.

Page 183. On the firſt church—read—on the ſite of, &c.

Page 185. One lance—a miſ-tranſlation—read—one great diſh, or charger. *Lancem*, from *Lanx*.

Page 190. Doctor *Haggarth*—read—*Haygarth*.

Page 213. *Holt Caſtle* was ſurrendered to colonel *Pope*, by agreement with general *Mytton*, who had left the place before poſſeſſion was taken of it.

Page 214. *Elizabeth*, ever attentive to her *prerogatives*, clamed the *miſe* on her acceſſion, in *November* 1558. She appointed a commiſſion for the receit; but met with oppoſition in the town of *Caermarthen*, by the inhabitants, who alleged, that greater ſums had been raiſed in their county, in the reigns of *Henry* VIII. and *Edward* VI. than was anſwered to the prince. Several were impriſoned for their reſiſtance, but afterwards releaſed; and on their petition a compromiſe was made, that whenever a ſubſidy was granted to the prince, no miſe ſhould be given; and the reverſe when a miſe was received *.

Page 218. The miſtake about the Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, is rectified by a leaf at the cloſe of

* *Stripe's Annals*, i. Introduction, p. 14. who adds, that originally corn and wine was given at the acceſſion, to ſupport the prince's houſhold.

this,

this, with which the poſſeſſor of the *Welſh Tour* is deſired to replace pp. 217. 218. of the firſt volume.

Page 225. An extent was made in the twenty-eighth of *Edward* I. at *Overton*, before *Richard de Maſcy*, juſtice of *Cheſter*, by which it appears, that the king had a mill there worth twelve pounds a year, and a fiſhery worth twenty; which ſhews the greatneſs of the value of the latter in thoſe days. The only fiſh worth attending to, muſt have been ſalmon. It was an important article, not only in private families, but, in thoſe days, for the ſupport of armies. In *Rymer* † is an order for three thouſand dried ſalmon, iſſued by *Edward* II. in 1308, in order to enable him to ſet his troops in motion, to wage war againſt *Scotland*.

Page the ſame. A certain ſpot near *Soddylt*, near this village, divides *England* and *Wales*—the provinces of *Canterbury* and *York*—the dioceſes of *Litchfield and Coventry*, *Cheſter*, and *St. Aſaph*—the counties of *Salop*, *Flint*, and *Denbigh*—the hundreds of *Oſweſtry*, *Maytor*, and *Bromfield*—the pariſhes of *Elleſmere*, *Overton*, and *Erbiſtock*—the townſhips of *Duddleſton*, *Knolton*, and *Erbiſtock*.

Page 240. JOHN, ſecond ſon—read—*John Lackland*.

Page 242. Sixth line of the verſes, from this—read—from whom.

Page 250. Whoſe houſe—read—the uſe of which.

† iii. 95.

Page 255. *Richard* II. with the committee of parlement, in this town determined that the great diſpute between the duke of *Hereford* and *Mowbray* duke of *Norfolk*, ſhould be decided by ſingle combat at *Coventry*; both dukes having appeared before the king at *Oſweſtry*, after the diſſolution of the parlement held at *Shrewſbury*.—*Drake*, i. 519.

Page 260. *Cae Dwn*, or rather *Cae Twn*. The laſt, according to doctor *Davies*, ſignifies *fractura*, than which nothing can be more expreſſive of the ending of this famous work, which, as I have not long ſince obſerved, terminates in a flat cultivated country, on the farm of *Cae Twn*, near *Tryddyn* chapel, in the pariſh of *Mold*. The termination is remote from any hill, or place of ſtrength: it is therefore reaſonable to imagine, that this mighty attempt was here ſuddenly interrupted by ſome cauſe, of which we muſt ever remain ignorant.

Page 263. Sir *John Owen* was of this houſe, but not of the family of *Owen Brogyntyn*. He was deſcended from *Hwfa ap Cynddelw*, one of the fifteen tribes of *North Wales*. Before Sir *John Owen*'s family enjoyed the place, it had been long poſſeſſed by the *Lacons*. It paſſed from them to Sir *William Morris*, of *Clenenny*, in *Caernarvonſhire*, by virtue of his marriage with the daughter of *William Wynne Lacon*, eſq; and was conveyed into the family of the preſent owner by the marriage of the granddaughter of that match with *John*, fourth ſon of *Robert Owen*, of *Bôdſilin*, in *Angleſea*. This gentleman (who was father of Sir *John*) had been ſecretary to the great *Walſingham*, and made a fortune of ten thouſand pounds; a ſum perhaps deſpiſed by

modern ſecretaries, but a vaſt one in thoſe days. His maſter did not take ſuch good care of himſelf, for he did not leave ſufficient to defray his funeral expences.

Page 279. LLANGOLLEN. In the old church was formerly a recumbent figure, in alabaſter, of a churchman, ſuppoſed to have been *St. Collen.*

Page 294. *Elihu Yale* had been governor of *Madras*, and probably a very deſpotic one. He hanged his groom for riding out with his horſe to take the air for two or three days, without his leave, for which *Yale* was called to ſevere account in *England.* —*Harris's Coll. Voy.* i. 917.

Page the ſame. The fine brazen eagle, which ſerves as a reading-deſk in *Wrexham* church, was the gift of *John ap Gryffydd ap David*, of *Plâs Yſtivan*, in that neighborhood, in the year 1254. Its price was ſix pounds.—*Halſton* MSS.

Page 295. The ſteeple at *Wrexham* muſt have been built ſeveral years after the church, if an account I received lately from a friend is well founded, that the church was built a little before the year 1472, and in that year it was glazed with glaſs from *Normandy.*

Page 296. Chancellor *Jeffries* has by him the purſe, the badge of his office, and is dreſſed in his baron's robes.

Page 297. His brother, Sir *Thomas*, was knight of *Alcantara*; and for the honor of the deſcendants of *Tudor Trevor*, from whom the *Jeffries* are ſprung, the proofs of his deſcent were

were admired even by the proud *Spaniards*, among whom he reſided long as conſul at *Alicant* and *Madrid*. He had rendered himſelf ſo acceptable to the *Spaniſh* miniſtry, as to be recommended to our court to ſucceed lord *Landſdown* as *Britiſh* envoy; but the revolution put a ſtop to the promotion.

Page 300. In the neighborhood of *Gresford* ſtood the *Lower Gwerſilt*, a houſe burnt down *April* the 20th, 1738, by which the country loſt the worthy and reſpectable family of the *Shakerlies*, who ſettled there ſoon after the reſtoration. They were originally of *Cheſhire*, but removed to this place almoſt immediately on the return of the royal family. Colonel (afterwards Sir *Jeffry*) *Shakerly* was a diſtinguiſhed loyaliſt, and had the command of a regiment of horſe under *Charles* I. During his ſervice, he contracted a great friendſhip with colonel *Robinſon*, owner of the *Upper Gwerſilt*; which induced him, ſoon after the year 1660, to purchaſe this eſtate from captain *Sutton*, an old cavalier, deſcended from *Tudor Trevor*, and ruined in the royal cauſe. This the colonel did, not only to re-place a conſiderable eſtate he had been obliged to ſell in *Kent*, in ſupport of the cauſe, but to be near his friend and fellow-ſoldier. No mention is made of him in any of the hiſtories of our civil commotions, notwithſtanding he was engagd in moſt of the actions of any note. The following account of what preceded the battle of *Rowton-Heath*, near *Cheſter*, is extremely curious, and merits preſervation; which I deliver in the manner I received it, by the favor of his grand-ſon, *Peter Shakerley*, eſq;

" THE

"THE heath upon which Sir *Marmaduke Langdale* was drawn up, carries the name of *Rowton Heath*; a mile beyond which, in the *London* road from *Cheſter*, is another heath, called *Hatton Heath.* The order which Sir *Marmaduke* had received from the king, was only to beat *Poyntz* back. Sir *Marmaduke* performed the ſame effectually; for having marched his men over *Holt Bridge* undiſcovered by the enemy, who had taken the out-works and ſuburbs of the city on the eaſt ſide thereof, and *Poyntz* coming in a marching poſture along the narrow lane between *Hatton Heath* and *Rowton Heath*, Sir *Marmaduke* having lined the hedges, fell upon him, and killed a great many of his men; and having ſo done, ordered colonel *Shakerley*, who was beſt acquainted with that country, to get the next way he could to the king (who lodged then at Sir *Francis Gamull*'s houſe, in *Cheſter*) and acquaint him, that he had obeyed his orders in beating *Poyntz* back, and to know his majeſty's further pleaſure. The colonel executed his orders with better ſpeed than could have been expected; for he gallopped directly to the river *Dee*, under *Huntingdon Houſe*, got a wooden tub (uſed for ſlaughtering of ſwine) and a batting-ſtaff (uſed for batting of coarſe linen) for an oar, put a ſervant into the tub with him, and in this deſperate manner ſwam over the river, his horſe ſwimming by him (for the banks were there very ſteep, and the river very deep) ordered his ſervant to ſtay there with the tub for his return, and was with the king in little more than a quarter of an hour after he had left Sir *Marmaduke*, and acquainted the king, that if his Majeſty pleaſed to command further orders to Sir *Marmaduke*,

he would engage to deliver them in a quarter of an hour; and told the king of the expeditious method he had taken, which ſaved him the going nine or ten miles about, by *Holt Bridge* (for the boats at *Eaton* were then made uſeleſs); but ſuch delays were uſed by ſome about the king, that no orders were ſent, nor any ſally made out of the city by the king's party, till paſt three o'clock afternoon, which was full ſix hours after *Poyntz* had been beaten back; and ſo *Poyntz* having all that time for his men to recover the fright they had been put into in the morning, *Poyntz* rallied his forces, and with the help of the parlement forces who came out of the ſuburbs of the city to his aſſiſtance (upon whom the king's party in the city might then ſucceſsfully have fallen) put all thoſe of the king's to the rout, which was the loſs of the king's horſe, and of his deſign to join *Montroſs* in *Scotland*, who was then underſtood to be in a good condition.

"THIS is what my father, the ſaid colonel *Shakerley* (afterwards Sir *Geffrey Shakerley*) hath often declared in my hearing; and ſince no mention is made of him in all this hiſtory (though he faithfully ſerved the king in all the wars, was perſonally engaged in almoſt all the field battles for the king, ſold part of his eſtate to ſupport that ſervice, and was for many years ſequeſtered of all the reſt) I thought it my duty, as his eldeſt ſon and heir, to do that juſtice to his memory, to inſert this here, under my hand, that it may be remembered to poſterity.

"PETER SHAKERLEY."

2 Page 321.

Page 321. An antient chronicle ſpeaks of the phœnomenon of the comet in theſe terms: "And in the iiii yere of Kyng "*Henrie*'s reigne, ther was a ſterre ſeyn in the firmament y^{t} "ſhewed him ſelf thurgh all the world for di'uſe tokenynges y^{t} "ſhuld befall ſone after: the which ſterre was named and called "by *Clargie*, *Stella Comata*."—*Caxton's Croniclis*, printed at *St. Alban's*.

Page 369. The valley in which the abby of *Valle Crucis* ſtands, was called, prior to the foundation of that religious houſe, *Pant y Groes*, or *The Bottom of the Croſs*, I ſuppoſe from that erected in memory of *Eliſeg*. *Madoc*'s charter was addreſſed to the monks of four different monaſteries, who, I imagine, were to have charge of the building, which took many years to finiſh. —*Sebright MSS*.

The bard *Guttun Owain* compoſed two *Owdls* in praiſe of *Davydd ap Jevan ap Jerwerth*, and of *Sion*, both abbots of this houſe. He highly commends their hoſpitality; ſpeaks of their having four courſes of meat, bright ſilver diſhes, claret, &c. *Guttun* does not forget the piety of the houſe, and is particularly happy in being bleſſed by abbot *John* with his three fingers covered with rings.

In another place is mentioned *Sion ap William ap Sion*, as the perſon who adjudged the prize at the laſt *Eiſteddfod* at *Caerwys*, in 1568.—*The ſame MSS*.

The freemen of *Llangollen* made a grant, in part of the river near their town, of a fiſhery to the monks of *Valle Crucis*. For want of a ſeal of their own, they affixed to their grant that of

Madoc, the founder of the abby. The monks erected new works on the river, for the purpoſe of taking the fiſh: this cauſed a diſpute between them and the freemen. The laſt referred it to the abbot and five monks of their own choice, who were to adjuſt the matter on oath. *Madoc* and his ſecretary, *John Parvus*, appointed a day for the purpoſe. The aſſembly was held; the oath ſolemnly adminiſtered; and the abbot and monks made the deciſion in their own favor. They alleged, that they had bought the right of erecting what works they pleaſed, and of repairing of them, from the heirs of *Llangollen*. The prince confirmed the decree, and the donation of the fiſhery, by an inſtrument, dated in 1234.

This houſe was demoliſhed in 1235, and is ſaid to have been the firſt of the *Welſh* that underwent that fate.

Page 400. *Reinault* received his pardon from *Thomas* lord *Stanley*, lord of the council for *Wales*; and it was afterwards confirmed by *Edward* IV. under the great ſeal.—*Tower MSS.*

Page 406. The firſt charter given to *Hope*, was by *Edward* the black prince, dated from *Cheſter*, in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of his father, or 1351. He orders that the conſtable of the caſtle for the time being ſhould be the mayor, who was, after taking the ſacrament, to ſwear on the holy evangeliſts, that he would preſerve the priveleges of the burgeſſes, granted in the ſaid charter; and that he ſhould chuſe out of them annually, on *Michaelmas*-day, two bailiffs. He adds alſo moſt of the other advantages granted in the charters of thoſe times: all which were afterwards confirmed by *Richard* II.—*Sebright MSS.*

Page 414.

Page 414. *Nannerch* church. In the chancel window, *Orate p. bono ſtatu Howell ap John ap Dda ap Ithel.* He is thought to have been the founder.

Page 433. *Caerwys.* An *Eiſteddfod* held there in the fifteenth of *Henry* VIII. *July* the 2d, in which the old laws are confirmed reſpecting bards, in the manner I recite. *Richard ap Howel ap Jevan Vychan*, of *Moſtyn*, and Sir *William Gryffydd*, and Sir *Roger Saluſbury*, preſided, aſſiſted by *Gryffydd ap Evan ap Llewelyn Vychan*, and *Tyder Aled*, a famous bard.

A *Pencerdd* might challenge any other to rehearſe or ſing for the prize, after giving a year and a day's notice. If he ſucceeded, he carried it off; if not, he loſt his degree; and the victor kept the prize for life, but was obliged to produce it annually on the *Eiſteddfod.*

FINIS.

THREAP WOOD.

AT the back of this houſe * lies the noted common of *Threap-wood*, from time immemorial a place of refuge for the frail fair, who make here a tranſient abode, clandeſtinely to be freed from the conſequences of illicit love. Numbers of houſes are ſcattered over the common for their reception. This tract, till of late years, had the ill-fortune to be extra-parochial: at firſt, either becauſe it was in the hands of irreligious or careleſs owners, or was ſituated in foreſt or deſert places †, it never was united to any pariſh. The inhabitants, therefore, conſidered themſelves as beyond the reach of law, reſiſted all government, and even oppoſed the exciſe laws, till they were forced to ſubmit, but not without bloodſhed on the occaſion. The very name of the place ſpeaks the manners of the dwellers. *Threap-wood*, derived from the *Anglo-Saxon Threapian*, to *threap* (a word ſtill in uſe); ſignifying to perſiſt in a fact or argument, be it right or wrong. It is ſeated between the pariſhes of *Malpas*, *Hanmer*, and *Worthenbury*; but belonged to none, till it was, by the late militia acts, decreed to be in the laſt. Still doubts ariſe about execution of ſeveral laws within this precinct. It is to be hoped, that legiſlature will take an opportunity of rendering the magiſterial power as valid here as in other places; eſpecially when it is to be conſidered, that there are to the amount of two hundred and ſixty-ſeven inhabitants, who want inſtruction in the doctrine of univerſal ſubmiſſion to law.

HANMER.

FROM *Broughton* I made an excurſion to *Hanmer*, diſtant about five or ſix miles: paſſed over part of *Threap-wood*; and obſerved

* In the preceding page, line 21, inſtead of eldeſt ſiſter, *read* eldeſt ſurviving ſiſter.

† *Blackſtone*, 4to, i. 113.

in the incloſures ſome venerable oaks, the remains of the antient foreſt. Croſs *Sarn-bridge*, over the *Wich-brook*, which riſes about two miles above, in part of the pariſh of *Malpas*, but in the county of *Flint*, near the *Wiches*; where are brine-ſprings and ſalt-works. Reach a houſe called *Willington-croſs*. The country, which hitherto had been uncommonly wet and dirty, now changes to a ſandy ſoil, and becomes broken into ſmall riſings. The part about the little town of *Hanmer* is extremely beautiful; varied with a lake of fifty acres, bounded on all ſides with ſmall cultivated eminences, embelliſhed with woods. The town, church, and the chief ſeat of the family of the *Hanmers*, a modern brick houſe, adorn one part; and on the oppoſite ſide of the water, on the ſite of the old houſe of *Greddington*, another ſeat is projected by that eminent lawyer, *Lloyd Kenyon*, eſquire.

CHURCH. THE church is a very handſome embattled building, of the reign of *Henry* VII. in whoſe time numbers of churches were re-built after the long deſolation of civil war. The roof is of wood: that of the *Fenns* chapel, and of the north aile, are divided in ſmall ſquares, and carved in a moſt elegant ſtyle. In the windows of the former was ſome painted glaſs, with dates, expreſſing the time of its being made, at the coſt of the *Hanmers*; who had the preſentation of the vicarage granted to them by the abby of *Haghmon*, near *Shrewſbury*, in 1424.

IN the *Hanmer* chapel are two mural monuments, in memory of two moſt diſtinguiſhed perſonages, with inſcriptions in elegant Latin. One to Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, baronet, knight of the ſhire for the county of *Flint*, who died in 1678: the other commemorates a ſpeaker of the houſe of commons in the latter part of the reign of queen *Anne*, the noted Sir

ERRATUM.

P. 88, line 27. Columnar, but not jointed, ſquare or pentagonal, *read* Columnar, ſquare or pentagonal, but not jointed.

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